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February 19th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 7 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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WORLD FISHING AND OUTDOOR EXPOSITION

Hunters and shooters who take in the Fourth Annual World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition later this month will find more than ever to interest them. The Exposition will be at the Rockland Community College Field House in Suffern, New York, Feb. 23 through March 1.

In addition to more space being devoted to hunting and shooting exhibits, there are two clinics especially for hunters. At 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation instructor will conduct a hunting safety clinic, and at 3PM On Sunday, March 1, Bill Hollister, also from the Department, will present his program on wild turkey hunting and calling. Opportunity to learn more about your favorite sport has always been a hallmark of this show and hunters are receiving their share.

Guns and related items will be displayed by the Fur, Fin and Feather Shop from Livingston Manor, N.Y.; the Hemingway African Gallery, a huge collection of African trophies, tribal art, ivory carvings and other items put together by Dr. Gregory Hemingway, son of Ernest Hemingway, will be there; and both the National Rifle Association and the New Jersey Wild Turkey Federation will have booths. You might even win a free muzzle loading rifle; a CVA representative will build a kit during the show and present the finished rifle to some lucky show-goer in a drawing on Sunday, March 1.

There'll also be chances to win a Truis Trap and a Penn's Woods "Wayne Bailey" turkey call.

You'll also want to see the Davis Sport Shop exhibit where products from major gun manufacturers will be displayed, plus the Jovino Company's array of black powder products, American Eagle arms, Smith & Wesson knives, and Leupold and Redfield scopes. You'll also want to see the several archery lines that will be represented, as well as visit the archery range where you can try out your favorite bow.

Guides, outfitters and lodge owners from such areas as New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Maine and Alaska will be on hand with all the information you'll need to plan your next hunting or fishing trip. And leading retailers, including L.L. Bean, Herman's World of Sporting Goods and Ramsey Outdoor Stores will offer special buys on all your outdoor needs.

Even antique firearms will be there: the Pearl River Gun Club, a leading sportsmen's organization in Rockland County, will show dozens of the old guns and will have shooting experts on hand to talk with you.

Outdoor Sports from Blauvelt, N.Y. will be showing several lines of archery equipment as well.

The Fourth Annual World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition has a lot to offer hunters, shooters, archers, and saltwater or freshwater anglers. It's easy to get to: from New Jersey, take the G.S.P. north to the N.Y. Thruway (I-87) and go just one more exit north, to Exit 14B (Airmont Road) and follow signs to the college. From the East, take the Tappan Zee and I-87 to Exit 14B. From the North and West, simply follow I-87 to Exit 14B.

Show hours are 4-10PM Wednesday and Thursday, February 25 and 26; 2-10PM, Friday, February 27; 11AM-9PM, Saturday, February 28, and on Sunday, March 1, it's open from 11AM to 7PM. Admission is still only $3.50 for adults and $1.50 for children under 12. There are acres and acres of free parking.

A HUGE SUCCESS

A 55 lb. striped bass, a bluefish of 24-8, and a weakfish of 12-3: these outstanding surf caught fish were the top entries in the 1st Annual New York Surf Fishing Contest. One participating club released 2,607 lbs. of bass (over 15 lbs.), blues and weaks (over 5), to capture that category of competition. Many participants agreed that because of the competition generated by this contest, they fished harder, and that proved to be the key to success. Last year's event proved that the fishermen themselves could fund and administer their own contest.

Because it was such a success in 1980, the 2nd Annual NYSFC is being programmed to get under way in April. Don't miss out on this improved version of the old R. J. Schaefer Contest; discuss it with your fellow club members now so that your group will be involved at the start. Interested surf fishing clubs, and clubs who have members who fish the New York surf, are advised to contact Fred Schwab at 516-735-5940.

FISHING CLINICS AT LONG BEACH

Even though it is winter and the temperatures are below zero, it is a good time to prepare for warmer weather and outdoor activities. With this in mind, the Long Beach Recreation Department and the Long Beach Sports Marina will conduct a series of Fishing Clinics at the Long Beach Recreation Center. There will be five clinics in all for children ages 10-18. Each lecture will be given by the area's top fishermen. Lecturers will be Ed Aubel, Jim Gentilesco, Frank Hunter, Greg Quinn and Ed Rindfleisch. The complete schedule and subject matter is as follows:

Sat., Feb. 28, 9:30 - 11: Flounder fishing.

Sat., March 28, 9:30-11: Surf, Pier,

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Those of us suffering from extreme cases of "cabin fever" may find some comfort in the knowledge that flounder season is just around the corner.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SALT WATER FLY FISHING**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
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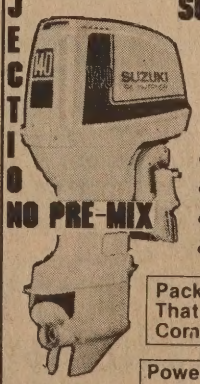

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Anyone interested, please call 431-3890.

SHARK FISHING SERIES BY MONTAUK CAPTAIN' ASSOC.

Montauk Captain's Association is sponsoring a series of lectures on shark tagging and shark fishing. Film slides will be shown and a question-and-answer period will follow. The members are willing to travel.

All interested groups may call Captain Joe McBride at (516) 588-1227 on eves. and weekends; or Captain Gary Kieffer, (516- 968-8969.

NBSFC AWARDS DINNER

The North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club recently held its annual awards night dinner at the Elks Hotel in Port Jefferson, where they recognized the eleven largest fish caught during the prior year. The awards were:

Striped bass from a boat, Dan Marchand, 44 lbs.; striped bass from the surf, Bob Rosenberger, 28.2; bluefish from a boat, Bob Rosenberger, 19.7; bluefish from the surf, Steve Mars, 15.2; weakfish from a boat, John Herson, 11.9; weakfish from the surf, Bob Rosenberger, 7.14; codfish, Carmine Mella, 23 lbs.; blackfish, Tom Rinaldi, 8.10; fluke, Don D'Apolito, 5.13; flounder, Tom Rinaldi, 3.2, and freshwater fish, Dick Ryan—black bass, 3.8.

The Club, which fishes both from boats and the surf, meets the second Monday night of every month in the Town of Brookhaven MOD building on Route 25A in Mt. Sinai. They are open for new members and welcome visitors and guests at our next meeting.

For further information, anyone interested may call 751-3928 or 265-6617.

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AHOY! BOATERS.

A Boating Skills and Seamanship Course will be given by Smithtown Flotilla 19-02 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary starting Monday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, East Main Street, Smithtown. The course will run for eight consecutive Monday nights.

The course will include: safe way to boating, boater's language and trailering, boat handling, legal requirements, rules of the road, aid to navigation, marlin spike seamanship, marine engines, radio and telephone.

The course is free except for a materials charge. For further information and pre-registration, please call Public Education Officer Pete Sparta at 724-4718 or Vice Commander Phil Milani at 265-3775.

HANK PARKER TO PROMOTE FOR LINDY-LITTLE JOE

Nick Adams, President of Lindy-Little Joe, Inc., has announced that Hank Parker will be promoting Lindy-Little Joe Fishing Tackle in the southeastern United States.

Hank Parker of Denver, North Carolina, won the 1979 Bassmaster Classic and is one of the all-time high money winners on the Bassmaster Tournament circuit.

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CLUB NEWS

SOUND SURF FISHING CLUB

Sound Surf Fishing Club is now accepting applications for new members. We have openings for surf fishermen who wish to actively participate in club activities.

For more information, call Frank Meyer at 588-2672.

LOWER BAY ANGLERS OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

The Lower Bay Anglers unanimously voted to be listed with the LIF as a club open to persons seeking membership. Persons interested are welcome to come to our Monday, 7:30 p.m., March 2, 1981 meeting, held at the Masonic Club, 7604 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn. N.Y. Films will be

shown and a bucktail tying class given.

The LBA is centered in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn of which its members fish locally as well as in extended areas exemplified by April—Shinnecock Bay flounder trip; May—Cape May, N.J. weakfish trip, and July—Captree fluke trip.

For more information, call Marty Gazzani, AM, 212-238-2636 or Bill McCormack, Sr., PM, 212-680-5444.

The LBA would like to announce the following officers elected for 1981 and thank them in advance for performing their administrative and organizational duties:

President—Bill McCormack, Sr.; Vice President—Marty Gazzani; Secretary—John Mackey; Treasurer—Charlie Barkley, and Rec. Secretary—Ronnie Lombardi.

NOR-WEST FISHING CLUB

The Nor-West Fishing Club has announced their new slate of officers for 1981. They are:

President: Bill Young
Vice-Pres.: Chip Albion
Secretary: John Fandl
Treasurer: Tom Provost
Contest Chrm.: Steve Petri.

The club would also like to congratulate their outgoing officers on a job well done.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Freeport Atlantis Anglers are now having their Annual Membership Drive. If you are interested in joining a good club for fishing and fun with monthly derbies, interclub tournaments, and fishing trips with trophies and prizes, please contact Allan Zaretsky, (516) 796-3982 after 7PM.

HARBOR FISHING CLUB

The following slate of officers was installed recently by the Harbor Fishing Club:

President: Charles Dezendorf
Vice-Pres.: John Holthusen
Secretary: Rudy Hanulec
Treasurer: Frank Traversa

NICK'S PT. TUNA CLUB

New officers have been voted in at the last meeting of Nick's Pt. Tuna Club, as follows: President—Leon Sayah; Vice President—Don Johnsen; Secretary—Milton Weinkrantz, and Treasurer—George Santry.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS LIST 1981 SLATE

The following is a list of officers for 1981 as elected by the Huntington Anglers' Club:

President: Bill ''Packy'' Collins
Vice Pres: Ken Ducker
Rec. Sec'y.: Bill Ricca
Corres. Sec'y.: Dan Marro
Treasurer: John Stone
Sgts. At Arms: John Kulju and Charles Tota.
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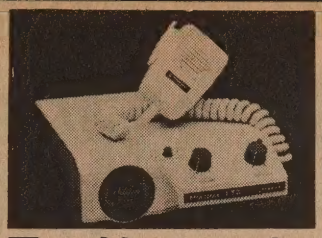

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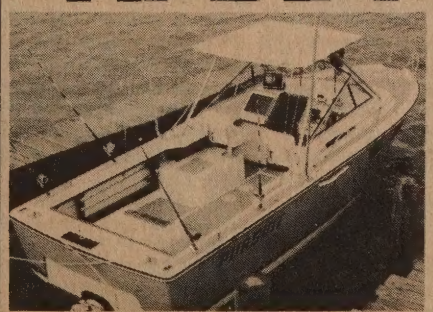

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Fluke Management Slow

by Al Ristori

Captain Neil Delanoy, skipper of the Bay Shore party boat "Casey Lee," recently provided an encouraging report on the latest meeting of the advisory panel to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fluke Management Committee. After going over a scientific report submitted to them, the panel of sport and commercial fishermen (representing states from North Carolina to Massachusetts) discussed the possible management measures required to overcome the problems facing this very intensively fished species.

Neil endorsed the fourteen inch minimum size that's worked well in distributing the catch throughout the season in New York waters. His proposal received substantial support from New Jersey north (especially from New Jersey sport representative Captain Kevin Bogan); but the southern advisors were leery about that high a minimum. Great numbers of smaller fluke are routinely caught in waters from Delaware Bay south, and almost invariably kept by both sport and commercial fishermen. There seemed to be some feeling for a twelve inch limit in that area, but the big jump to fourteen inches probably wouldn't be accepted.

The scientific information supplied indicated that there seems to be only two major groups of fluke. Most of these caught in the north migrate offshore in the winter. The southern fish stay closer to shore and migrate south in cold weather. The latter group tends to run smaller in size (accounting for the smaller sizes kept in the south), and does contribute somewhat to our summer fishery.

The big problem at present involves severe losses of very small fluke in the trawling process. One of the southern dragger representatives brought up the problem that we're all too familiar with: the killing of eight to ten inch fluke in small mesh nets dragged off the North Carolina and Virginia Coasts all winter. Though the draggers are targeting the high-priced fluke, they also want weakfish and croakers. Therefore, they use small mesh nets that don't permit the escape of the broad, but tiny fluke. The result is that millions of undersized fluke are shoveled over the side—dead and useless!

The same mesh size problem occurs in northern waters, due to the desire to catch other species (such as squid) at the same time that fluke are being sought. The solution is obvious. Government must step in and control mesh sizes in areas where fluke are abundant. The individual draggers won't do it because it will put them at a disadvantage in competition with other draggers, though they all realize that they'd be better off in the long run if those undersized fluke could live to grow to adult size. Hopefully, the states will be able to agree on such fluke management provisions in the near future—before the situation becomes critical!

When the question of fluke management came up in the Mid-Atlantic Council a couple of years ago, Bill Feinberg and I opposed turning the initiative over to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission. In theory, it seemed like a logical move, but we were concerned that it would drag on for years before any management plans would be forthcoming. Unfortunately, that seems to be what's happening. Rather than continuing to study this problem for years, some bold moves in regard to both minimum lengths and mesh sizes should be taken in short order by both the states and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Higher prices are creating more pressure on this already heavily exploited fishery, and we can't afford to wait for its collapse before taking some actions that will at least give the resource a chance!

Sport Fishermen Look For A Fair Shake from NMFS

As appointments to lesser offices are made within the next few weeks, we should get a better picture of just how the marine sport fisheries should fare in the next four years. One conservation leader I spoke to recently stated that he didn't expect much in the way of new initiatives from this cost-conscious Administration, but was just hoping to hang onto what we've already got. Programs such as the Marine Recreational Survey are very important to us; but that Washington observer noted that if every other government employee in NMFS were dismissed, we probably wouldn't notice the difference!

In the Carter Administration we were faced with an obvious anti-sport fishing bias within the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Hopefully, that will change with the new faces at NOAA and NMFS. However, it's very unlikely that money will flow freely for anyone. Therefore, we must make every effort to ensure that available funds are spread around in an equitable manner. One potential source for sport fishing projects is the NMFS Fishery Development Program. The principal source of funds for that program is the Saltonstall/Kennedy (SK) Act of 1954, which earmarks thirty percent of duties collected on imported fish products for fishery development research projects. Currently that comes to about $30 million. An effort by the previous Administration to negate the dedicated nature of the S-K funds and substitute appropriations was turned back in Congress.

As long as the S-K funds remain earmarked for fisheries development, they'll be safe from the budget cutting process. However, as appropriated funding will probably be reduced, it's important that sport fishing interests fight for a share of the S-K pot. The Sport Fishing Institute reviewed various fishery development bills last year and found that the recreational fisheries were completely ignored. Our problems with NMFS have been well documented, but in this instance the Institute had to first change the conception commonly held in Congress that the S-K funds were strictly for commercial fishing projects. In point of fact, the tariffs on foreign fishery products do not come out of the domestic fisherman's pocket—but, rather, are a subsidy which serves to raise the market price. Those tariffs are, in effect, paid by the consumers of the foreign fish products. Furthermore, in many cases, the consumers of domestic fish products are paying higher prices due to the effect of those tariffs on the market. Therefore, the public has every right to expect that the S-K funds will be used in fishery development projects that will prove beneficial to them—and not just to the industry.

Fortunately, the Sport Fishing Institute was able to prevail upon the Senate to provide wording (in a report on a bill to create a National Fishery Development Act) which will enable sport fishing projects to be funded from S-K funds. Specifically, the report stated that "The bill provides for a broad definition of people eligible to apply for S-K funding, including public and private institutions, fishery development founda-

(Continued on page 32.)

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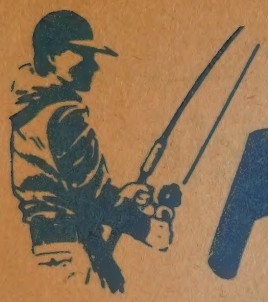

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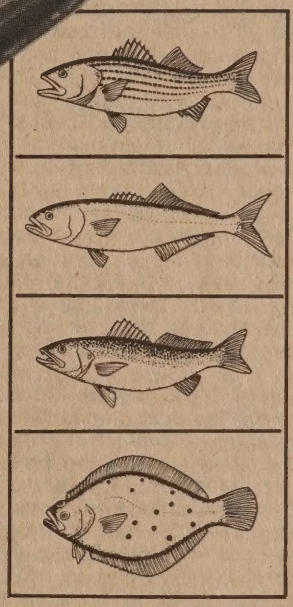

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Take Care Of Your Skin

by William A. Muller

TAKEN FOR GRANTED. I'm afraid that most of us take our skin for granted; but we shouldn't. First of all, it is the largest organ, in surface area, that we have and it provides us with a number of essential services. The skin is part of the first defense we have against invading microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses. Our skin helps us to maintain body temperature through the functions of the sweat glands. In winter, when it's cold, the body re-routes much of the skin's blood supply to deeper layers so that we can retain more of the heat that our muscles produce. In summer, however, we need to rid our bodies of heat so that we can maintain a uniform temperature even though the air temperature is so high that it makes heat transfer a lot more difficult. The sweat glands release liquid because there is more blood flowing close to the surface of the skin. The liquid is derived from capillary blood vessels around the base of the sweat glands. This liquid moves up a channel in the sweat gland to the surface and spreads out onto the skin where it evaporates. The evaporation cools us off. Thus, when it is humid the rate of evaporation slows and we feel warmer and more uncomfortable, while on hot but dry days we seem to be able to stay reasonably comfortable. The skin also helps to get rid of some waste products and helps us maintain our shapes by holding in muscle, connective tissue, and fat. In the light of all the jobs that the skin helps us with, it is odd, isn't it, that so many of us take it for granted. The fisherman has an added problem since he or she may spend a lot of time in the wind and exposed to the sun. Nowadays, we read so much about skin cancer that most folks are anxious to protect against the possible damage that the sun can inflict on our skins. If we add the dangers of the wind and insects, among others, we can perhaps begin to appreciate that we may all need to pay a little more attention to our skin.

THANKS TO WINTHROP LABORATORIES. Some time ago the folks at Winthrop Laboratories sent us a press release in which they detailed how each of us could take better care of our skin. It was that press release that pushed us in the direction of this column. In any event, we began to realize that many of our readers might stand to gain a lot by a wintertime review of skin care in the outdoors.

SEE A PHYSICIAN! We do not intend to recommend self-treatment over qualified medical care and, therefore, it is important to say that serious and/or persistent skin problems should be looked at by a qualified physician. You may want to consult with your family physician, but if it's a skin problem, the chances are that your family M.D. will send you to a dermatologist (skin specialist). However, Dr. Litt (dermatologist who prepared the press release for Winthrop Labs) points out that there are a number of very minor problems that the average person can easily take care of. He recommends the following items be on hand in a first aid kit. You can keep the kit in your boat or car (depending upon whether you are a surf fisherman or boat fisherman). The kit should include some sterile gauge, tape, bandages of various sizes, soap, antiseptic, common external pain reliever, and a good suntan lotion or sunscreen.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN MY PROBLEM IS SEVERE OR MILD? As is true of any health situation, this is the most important question that the average person needs to answer correctly. Reactions to skin problems can range from so mild as to be almost unnoticed, to so severe that shock and death result. For example, if one considers insect bites, we find a wide range of human reactions. For some folks a bee sting is a momentary annoyance, but to others who are allergic to the sting the situation becomes a matter of life and death. Such allergic individuals go into anaphylactic shock and if they do not receive immediate medical attention they can quickly die. However, for most of us mild pain and modest itching are signs of a mild condition that might be treated by the individual. However, when in doubt or when the symptoms begin to change suddenly, or when the symptoms are rather severe from the onset, the patient should be put under the care of a qualified physician as soon as possible.

INSECTS. The bee and the wasp can present some very annoying problems for fishermen. The beach rat may have far fewer problems with these critters which tend to be far less active at night, but they suffer their share from biting insects. The best treatment for stings from bees and wasps is prevention. Stay away from flower patches or garbage cans, and don't leave food and sugary drinks in your boat or near to your fishing activities. Avoid the use of perfume or cologne and perfumed soaps. Any fragrance will attract bees and other insects. If you suspect that you'll be fishing in an area where there might be a substantial number of bees, avoid wearing bright colored clothing or bright prints. Bees zero-in on bright colors and print-color designs since this is how they find flowers in Nature. If, in spite of your precautions you are stung, what can you do? Wasps, yellow jackets, and hornets do not usually leave their stingers in the skin, but bees do. The proper method of removing the stinger is to use a razor blade or knife blade. Push down on the skin with the flat surface of the blade and scrape the stinger away. The use of fingers and tweezers merely squeezes more venom into the site of the skin and thus produces more irritation. The initial pain of the sting is followed by swelling and a dull throbbing pain. Ice packs will relieve the swelling and in so doing will relieve a lot of the discomfort too, although a non-prescription pain killer might be needed after the ice packs. A wet dressing of baking soda, Epsom salts, or a paste of meat tenderizer will speed the recovery of the skin by drawing the poison towards the surface of the skin and in the case of the tenderizer, chemically convert the poison molecules to non-poisonous products. Again, watch out for signs of shock, for such patients must receive immediate medical care.

BITERS! Biting insects do not usually produce as severe a reaction as stinging insects, yet I have observed sensitive individuals react with amazing severity to the bites of deer flies, for example. In most cases, however, flies, mosquitoes, chiggers, and gnats are just plain pains in the ....! Daytime fishermen may not appreciate how troublesome these beasts can be for, with the exception of the flies and chiggers, the bulk of the biting insect problems occur at night when the air is a lot stiller and many of these bugs go a hunting. Stinging insects will not seek you out, and in fact, they probably do everything they can to avoid us and thus only sting as a last resort. However, biting insects make a living off of us and other animals. Commercial repellents on the market today do a great job of keeping the biters away

compared to twenty years ago, yet there is nothing that will stop gnats for any length of time. Check the label of the repellent you buy and make sure it lists N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide (DEET) as at least one of its active ingredients, since this chemical is one of the most effective ones developed to date. At night drab grays and tans seem to attract less of the biters than white or dark colors. Drab green is a favorite too. Wear clothes that restrict access to legs and arms as well as the head and neck. Don't tape yourself in tightly, but do wear clothes that have gentle elastic wrist bands, for example. Soap and water or any of the non-prescription pain killers will help relieve the itching and discomfort.

WIND AND FROSTBITE. Frostbite is not likely during the main fishing season, although windburn is a great problem. Suntan lotions and creams are easily used to help prevent windburn. Once you have it, it isn't likely to be more than an annoyance and usually will not require treatment. Frostbite is another matter. For those of you who like to icefish or seek those cod on the winter-battered oceans, you should give careful consideration to this. Exposure to wind and cold or cold without wind, can produce a freezing and killing of the skin cells. This is frostbite. It is serious because if left untreated it can develop into gangrene and this may lead to amputation of the region. When your skin has gone beyond cold and is approaching frostbite, it will feel flushed. When the actual frostbite sets in, the skin will turn white or grayish-yellow. It is common for the pain that comes at first to disappear. If you will be out in cold weather here's what you should do. Wear warm and protective clothing. However, neither socks, nor jackets, nor boots should be too restricting since that will cut off circulation and instead of keeping the area warm you'll be keeping the body warmth from getting to those vulnerable areas. Hands, feet, nose, ears, lips are the most common ones affected. Wear a hat that goes down over the ears. Wear gloves. Wear as much cover over your face at you can. DO NOT DRINK! Alcohol dulls the senses and makes it harder for the person to realize the true nature of their condition. Drink tea, coffee, hot soup. Check yourself and/or buddy regularly for the first sign of frostbite. Once you have discovered frostbite, here's what to do. Warm the region by pressing it against a warm part of your body. Immerse the region in warm water (110° to 114° F.) Here's what NOT to do. DO NOT immerse the region in hot water; do not rub the affected area; do not warm near a fire (numbed areas cannot feel intense heat), and do not rub with ice or snow.

SUNBURN. Except for us nighttime surf rats, this is the condition that will get most of us sooner or later. The ultraviolet part of the sun's radiation is what causes sunburn, and as the name implies, the skin is burned. If the burn is a bad one, the skin dies and peels away. Repeated exposure to sun for prolonged periods will cause premature aging of the skin (wrinkles), excessive dryness, and in severe cases, cancer. Even a common sunburn is painful and annoying. In addition to the skin pain, redness, and sensitivity of the average sunburn situation, swelling, chills, fever, blistering, nausea and diarrhea can also occur from more severe cases. Not all of us are of equal sensitivity. Blue-eyed blonds and redheads are more sensitive and will burn more easily. Age is also a factor since we know that people between the ages of twenty and fifty are almost twice as sensitive to the sun's radiation as are older and younger people. How you protect yourself should reflect how sensitive you know yourself to be. All of us should begin the season with small periods of exposure until some tanning has occurred. From that point, we should use lotions and sunscreens according to our individual needs to prevent burns.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT! More severe sunburns can be treated with cold compresses, but it would be better to check with a physician. Mild cases can be handled with commercial pain killers and sunburn sprays. Sunburn can be very serious and therefore great care should be taken to prevent it and if you are sunburned anyway, seek out proper treatment.

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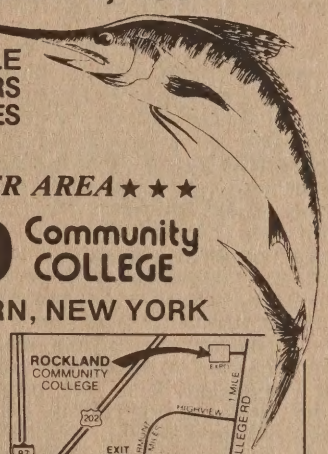

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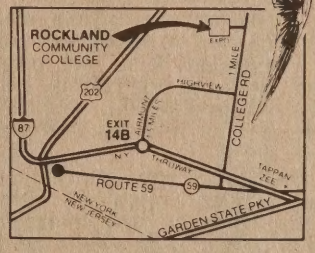

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Winter Maintenance: Lures

by Andy Regina

If our surf rod is indispensable in getting our offering out to the fish and our reel equally as indispensable to hold once again indispensable line, it must follow that our lures are the most indispensable items of all. If not, why then are all the rest merely the means for getting that lure (hook) out to the fish? Surely, we could cast out any suitable weight with the above equipment; but if that weight did not look like something good to eat, no fish would strike it, and if that lure did not have appropriate hooks, no fish would get caught. Therefore, by reason of insane logic on my part, it follows that our lures are our most indispensable items, and as such, must be kept in perfect working order as much as our equipment must be.

The task of reconditioning and maintaining lures demands as much effort as our earlier maintenance did—if not more so—and is one chore we cannot put off till next year if we hope to catch some fish. Time, effort, and energy must be expended on each lure if you want it to look and to perform as it was intended to, which is why you shelled out your hard-earned cash for it in the first place. Right?

Your lure is the "bottom line" when seeking game fish with artificials. Some fresh paint and new hooks can go a long way in putting more fish on your stringer.

Rusted hooks have no reason to remain on your lures at all. First of all, they discolor everything they come in contact with, then they lose their sharpness, which negates their quick-hooking potential. Secondly, the rust, which is simply the oxidation of the metal, eats away the gauge of the metal, thereby creating weak points that could break under the stress of a fighting fish. Last, but not least by any means, is the possibility of inflicting tetanus or blood poisoning upon yourself if you should get stuck with one. All in all, rusted hooks just ain't worth the false economy of keeping them. So right off the bat, we should get rid of them all—no ifs, ands, or buts about it.

It is easy to remove those treble hooks from plugs just by slipping them through the split rings that hold them on the hook hangers. Should the trebles be connected directly to the hook hangers, snip 'em off by cutting the hook eye with a pair of side-cutter pliers. For the time being, leave the plug without hooks and inspect the finish, to determine if the plug needs spot retouching or entire refinishing. If that plug caught some bluefish, or even a few fluke or weakfish, or took a beating on the rocks, chances are that it most definitely will be chipped or gouged, and will require some refinishing.

Using a fine grade of sandpaper, remove the old finish either entirely if it is in real bad shape, or just around the worst spots if that plug did not take too much of a beating. Good lacquer in a wide spectrum of colors, each one in its own individual brush-capped bottle, can be purchased at hobby shops, tackle shops, auto shops, or from any one of the many fine mail order houses that cater to fishermen. Wooden plugs must first be sealed, then primed, then finally given a finish coat, and then that must be sealed in with a coat of clear lacquer, all of which takes a lot of time and patience, but wood has all but disappeared from the plug scene, so we can concentrate on the plastics that now proliferate the market.

With plastic, it is extremely important that you only use lacquer that is compatible to the plastic that the plug is made of. To use anything other than a compatible lacquer will result in a strong chemical reaction between the plastic of the plug and the lacquer base, creating a soggy, sorry mess that will ruin everything it comes in contact with. Stress this point when you purchase the lacquer, and only buy the correct item; if in doubt, ask for information from the plug manufacturer.

Your basic prime coat should be white, which will produce brighter finishes, and should be brushed on thinly and evenly and allowed to dry thoroughly before applying the second coat. The trick here is to thin out the lacquer with an appropriate thinner, so that each coat applies evenly and dries quickly. Two coats of thin lacquer will give you a better finish than one coat of thick lacquer, which takes longer to dry and has a tendency to run, creating a sloppy finish.

Make an S-shaped hook from a piece of wire, hook it into the rear hook holder of the plug, and hang it from a rod or dowel that is placed on a couple of bricks, or anything high enough to prevent the plug from touching any surface. I set up a couple of encyclopedias on my dining table, and use Eileen's mop handle to hang the plugs, but only after she lays enough newspapers down on the table to sink a ship with. She ain't taking

any chances with a ruined table and I ain't taking any chances with her! No dripping lacquer is going to ruin her furniture and no irate wife is going to ruin me!

Figure on two coats of primer and two coats of color, with at least one coat of clear lacquer after that, to seal the whole thing in. Each coat must be allowed to dry thoroughly before you apply the next coat, and imperfections formed by dripping or running lacquer can be sanded smooth with fine sandpaper before the next coat is applied. The drying time for each coat of lacquer can usually be found on the bottle, but it is flexible and contingent upon temperature and humidity. Play it safe and allow a few extra hours than is recommended, and be certain that your working area is well ventilated, to avoid inhaling possibly toxic fumes.

Hanging new hooks on the now refinished plug is easy, provided that you use the same style, same size, and same weight as the hooks you removed earlier. Here correct balance can be crucial, and plugs not balanced properly will not look or perform properly, which may or may not affect their fish-catching effectiveness. Rather than tempt already jaded fish gods with unbalanced plugs, it is much simpler to use exact replicas when replacing plug hooks, and that's the name of that tune!

Replacing those swinging single hooks that adorn our metal lures (I used to call 'em tins, but they ain't tin no more!) is much simpler and less critical and in fact, can be an improvement at times, if we use stainless steel hooks as our replacements. Here you merely pry open the eye of the hook with a pair of pliers and slip it off the swivel, or the split ring, or the hook-holder, and throw it out. Open the eye of the replacement hook in the same manner, slip it on, and crimp the hook eye closed tight, and you are in business again. As easy as that!

Lures with fixed single hooks, such as bucktail jigs, present our greatest problem only because you can't remove the darned things and replace them, as we did with plugs and squids. Here we are stuck with trying to be content by cleaning the hooks as best as possible, using emery cloth to remove the rust. Of course, if the hooks are too far gone, throw the whole damned jig out or melt it down, 'cause it will only haunt you at some later date if you do not.

Basically, the work generally needed on jigs is refinishing the jig head, which, if fished properly, should be chipped from banging and dragging the bottom. Although jigs with unfinished heads catch as much fish as the ones that are prettily painted, if not more so at times, we all go for that pretty paint, just as we all go for the girls with makeup on. Refinishing jig heads is easy—just remove the hair, or feathers, or nylon, or whatever, and remove the paint entirely. You can scrape it off or use a commercial remover; it makes no never mind, just as long as you end up with a bald, unpainted jig when you are done.

Now we must refinish the jig head, but to do so properly we should first replace the tail dressing, which will make the completed product all the more professional looking. Learning to tie bucktail properly can be pretty hairy, if you'll excuse the pun, but here we go anyway!

Basically, tying bucktail requires patience and a sense of symmetry. Select hairs that are half again as long as the total length of the jig hook, and cut off a batch about one-half inch wide. Lay these down on the table alongside the jig, tapered ends towards the bend of the hook, and select about one-quarter of them, picking them up in your left hand, along with the jig. Secure one end of a strong thread to the wrapping step of the jig near the head, using several half-hitches to do so. Rod winding nylon is an excellent choice to use here. Now, lay that hair tight to the wrapping step so that the butt ends are flush against the jig head and the tapered ends extend beyond the bend of the hook, and start wrapping that thread over the hair, the same way you wrap a rod. Keeping the turns as tight as possible and as close to each other as possible, make five or six turns and then tightly secure the thread temporarily with two or three half-hitches.

Select another quarter of those bucktail hairs and lay them flush against the jig hook just as you did with the first batch, and directly opposite. If you tied your first batch on the left side of the hook, place this batch on the right side, then secure it with a few more turns of the thread and tie it off again with two half-hitches. DO NOT keep wrapping all the way down the shank of the hook, but rather work back up the wrapping step towards the jig head once you have wrapped about a half-inch of the bucktail.

The third quarter-batch of bucktail is for the bottom part and the final batch is for the top—the part where the hook rides up—and these two sections should be tied on exactly as the other two. Bear in mind that this lure should resemble a baitfish to predators, and that baitfish are colored darker on top and lighter on the bottom; so use dark hairs on top and white ones underneath. When the last batch of hair is tied on and held temporarily in place, nudge the whole batch into a symmetrical appearance with your fingers, then wrap the hair several more times, repeating yourself up and down that same half-inch length that we spoke of earlier.

When you get halfway through the final wrap, lay a spare piece of thread that has been doubled along the unwrapped section, with the loop facing the same way you are wrapping and the two tag ends extending beyond your wrap on the other end.

(Continued on page 30.)

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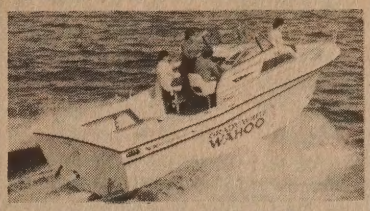

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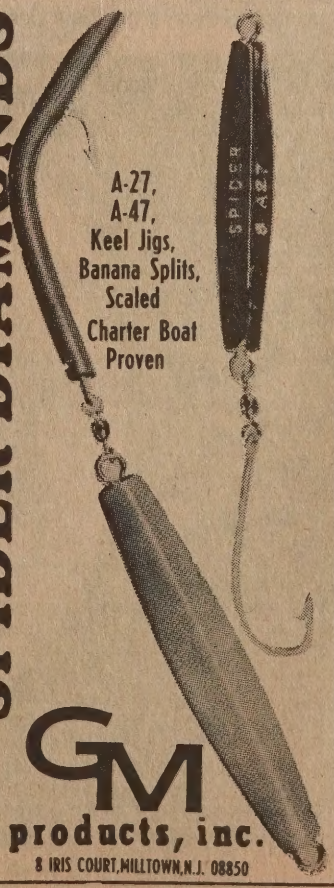

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SINKER BOUNCING

TERMINAL TACKLE

by Matt Ahern

One recent evening I decided to browse through several tackle catalogs. As is generally the case, however, because of this voluminous parade of goodies, I couldn't see the forest for the trees. This is not a condemnation by any means, for certainly such a vast array of items are useful to many fishermen. With specific ideas in mind, I took up pencil and pad, got myself comfortably seated, and listed those items deemed necessary for the enjoyment of the bottom fishing game. Out of the hundred or so offerings (excluding rods, reel, and line), I found only three of utmost importance: hooks, hardware, and sinker molds.

And I guess of these three, it is the fishhook which draws the most interest of fishermen—be they sinker bouncers or deep-water marlin 'trollers. There is something about this thin, curved bit of tempered steel which mesmerizes all dyed-in-the-wool fishermen.

If looking upon a fishhook does not quicken your pulse, does not erase all other thoughts at the moment of its sighting, I think perhaps you had better stand back and take a long look at your future as a fisherman.

Harsh words? Yes, indeed. And they are meant to be; for without a deep and abiding interest in fishhooks, that path to better fishing becomes bumpy indeed. It has always been so, and will always be so. Every good fisherman is a hook fanatic. This, of course, is one of the reasons he is a good fisherman. Without that interest, most of us could never advance in the game.

While by no means do I claim to be a hot-shot fisherman, I have, over the years, accumulated a goodly amount of fishhooks. I have several thousand on hand right now. These are all loose hooks, packed one hundred to the box, and must, of course, be snelled before use. But this doesn't bother me in the least. A labor of love, and all that.

Of this vast supply of hooks (for a single fisherman, that is), most are #6 regular-shanked Sproats which I use for flounder. (I've long ago given up on standard Chestertowns for the flatties.) I also have five or six hundred 5/0 Sproats and Limericks which I use for cod, plus hundreds of #5 Virginia hooks for blackfishing. For fluke fishing, I rely on those 5/0 Sproats and Limericks to produce—which they do. Incidentally, I keep no 3/0 to 5/0 long-shanked fluke hooks. I do, however, keep a supply of 7/0 Carlisles. These I use exclusively for doormat fluke when wreck fishing during late summer and early fall.

I guess you might say I am a hook fanatic. From 'way back.

Let me add that I also have dozens of ancient tarred and gut-snelled hooks hanging from the cellar rafters. They haven't been used in ages, nor would I dare to, considering their condition. They are my pets, possessors of a special place in my fishing heart. Each has proved its worth at one time by taking an outsized fish

To catch fish like these takes a thorough knowledge of terminal tackle.

over the years. Each has its history, indelibly etched in my memory as to time and place of occurrence.

The most ancient goes back to a summer day in 1929. It is a common 1/0 Sproat porgy hook, complete with its now rapidly deteriorating tarred snell. It was with this hook that I decked my first real doormat fluke—which is a story in itself. Another is a tarred-snell japanned 8/0 Sproat cod hook with which I caught my first over-forty-pound cod. It is almost bent straight out, and by everything that is right, I should never have brought that cod to gaff. But thanks to excellent coaching by a nearby master fisherman, I succeeded in doing so.

I'm a hook fanatic, all right—or to put it more bluntly: a first-class hook nut. My family understands this, of course (Lord knows they've lived with it long enough), but it has been difficult to justify this "silliness" to non-fishermen; therefore, I have long since ceased to defend myself. A man convinced against his will, and all that.

As for hardware, this can be a ticklish subject to discuss because so many sinker bouncers love gadgets. But when they discover that it is easier to fill their buckets without such doubtful aid, then, and only then, do they take to heart the bottom fisherman's adage: the less hardware, the better.

This adage is not of my doing; it is not something I've discovered on my own. As a boy over fifty years ago, and in desperate need of fishing information, I remember being quoted that very thing by kind-hearted master fishermen. As a result, I've had an aversion to hardware lo these many years. I don't think I've ever had cause to regret it.

But under certain conditions, I do use hardware. It has its place in the scheme of things when used in moderation. If necessary, I use three-way swivels and "Quick-Rigs." But you will never find pretty colored beads, flashers, and assorted ilk of that nature in my tackle box. To my mind, most of these are put on the market to catch fishermen—not fish.

I know there are fluke fishermen who dote on flashers, and codfishermen who use swiveling hook lears. Some of these fellows even tell me they catch fish when using them. I believe it. But I don't think it is because of these bits of hardware that they are successful. I believe if they were to look more closely into the matter of their bait presentation and methods of fishing, they would be more likely to find the real reason.

I sometimes use those aforementioned three-way swivels when drifting for fluke—but only when the drift is at an excessive rate. As for fluke-trolling, I believe this is the only place where without question fishermen are justified in using swivels—be they three-way, cross-line, or barrel types.

"Quick-Rigs" are handy little gadgets. Their use makes it easy for fishermen to raise or lower hooks and leaders on the main line without first going through the necessity of tying knots. I wouldn't be without them. And another nice thing about "Quick-Rigs" is that they cost but pennies. And they are strong. I once decked a 47 lb. cod while using one. That "Quick-Rig" did come up a little tired I'll admit, but it held.

Don't overlook "Quick-Rigs" and three-way swivels; they are all the hardware you need.

Sinkers are of prime importance to bottom fishermen, not only for the obvious reasons of getting the bait on bottom and holding it there, but they must be of particular design if they are to aid in putting fish in the bucket. To many fishermen, a sinker is a sinker...period! But don't you believe it! There's more to this bit of molded lead than meets the eye. Veteran fishermen have long known this. These fellows may not appear to give sinker selection much thought, but this is only because they no longer find it necessary to do so. And fortunately it doesn't take the finesse needed to select proper sinkers as it does to select proper hooks.

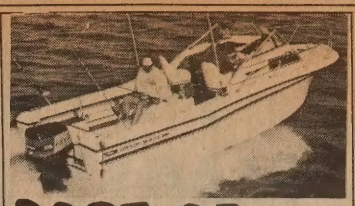
I'm sure most bottom fishermen use bank sinkers; and there is good reason for this. Because they are teardrop shaped, these cylindrical weights slide over and around obstructions which would normally snag an ordinary flat-sided sinker. You may be sure this feature is of utmost importance to those fishermen who do much fishing around wrecks and other obstruction-littered areas.

It may become necessary to use diamond sinkers when fishing areas requiring weights over eight ounces. But these two types are the only kind bottom fishermen should consider. Shun the surfcaster's pyramid sinker as you would the plague. It will surely foul on the slightest obstruction.

Many fishermen now make their own sinkers. At the price asked for sinkers today, I don't blame them. I've always made my own sinkers—even when lead was one cent a pound, and sinkers, one cent an ounce. Today, I believe it is only the foolish fisherman who doesn't own a sinker mold.

Excellent molds are available through mail order catalogs, or from tackle shops. They give years of service and once you've found a source of lead (sand traps at rifle ranges, discarded wheel-balancing weights at service stations, or perhaps your neighborhood plumber), you need never worry about fishing those tackle-snagging areas which often harbor the largest fish.

So, these carefully selected items: fishhooks, hardware, and sinkers are all the terminal tackle components necessary for each bottom fisherman to enjoy his sport to the fullest. Anything else, in my estimation, is so much excess baggage. I've never found it any other way.



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NAVIGATION FOR THE SMALL CRAFT FISHERMAN

Part Three — *by Jens Jacobs*

Last week I left you with a few simple questions in regards to converting courses from mag. to true, and vice versa. The correct answers are as follows: 1) C.C. 007; 2) T.C. 028, and C.C. 358.

For those of you who had them right, congratulations and to those of you who missed any, brush up on last week's article. By the way, if you've ever entertained the idea of getting a C.G. license to carry passengers for hire, understanding the foregoing as well as the following is of utmost importance. Okay, back to work.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding and confusion, let's clear up some definitions frequently used in connection with what is commonly referred to as "tide." In professional language, as well as in this series of articles, the following terms will be used to indicate the following:

"Tide"—the vertical movement of the water surface (up-down).

"Current"—horizontal movement of the water.

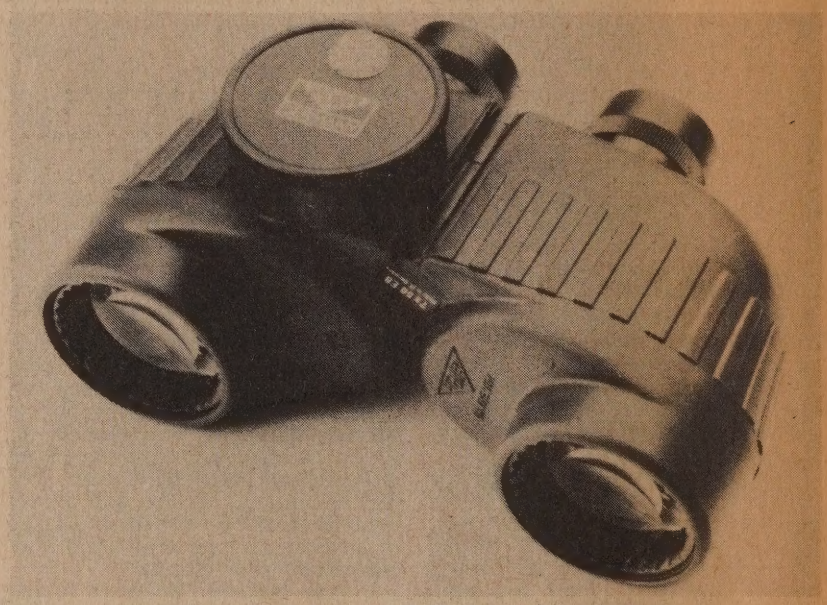
"Set"—the direction (true) the current is running in.

"Drift"—speed of the current in knots. (1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour.)

In using these terms properly, we could say the tide is coming in or up if you were to be up some estuary or harbor; but you would never say the tide is running with X knots. You can also say the tidal range is 8.5 ft. which means the rise and fall of the water surface is 8.5 ft. between high and low water.

For the purpose of navigation, we use the terms "set and drift" when working with currents, so that proper course adjustments can be made to counteract that current so you can stay on your intended "track." Notice I used the term "intended track?" The term track is the actual path of a vessel, with all the little zigs and zags actually made while going from point A to B. If you draw in a course line between your two points, it is assumed you want to stay on this line (your intended track), and for the purpose of this demonstration, let's stay with our intended track of 025.5 true from the BW "NR" to our 48 ft. shoal N/W of Stratford Shoal (Art. #2).

Let's assume you want to travel this distance of 10 miles on 025.5 true, and from other publications (Eldridge Tide and pilot Book for one) you found that the set is 260 and the drift is 0.9 and the boat speed through the water for our run is 6.4 knots (it's foggy). The question: what course to steer to stay on the intended track, assuming there is no compass deviation on this course.



Military binocular with built-in bearing compass.

Step 1: draw in a line (025.5) from your departure point to your destination. Let's label departure A and destination B.

Step 2: from your departure point A draw in a line in the direction of the "set" (260 true in this case). Note: The length of this line is not important at this time.

Step 3: set 0.9 miles on your dividers and place one leg on your departure point. Then make a small mark with the other leg on the "set" line in the direction towards "C" and label it E.

Step 4: Set 6.4 (the boat speed through the water) on your divider.

Step 5: With the divider spread unchanged, place one leg on Point E and with the other leg place a mark on the line between A and B where it intersects this line and label it D.

Step 6: Draw a line between Points E and D.

Step 7: Measure the true course of this line, and convert to mag. course.

If you did everything right, you should have found the mag. course to be 044.9 or 045 mag.

Now there remains one other problem. Since you were going somewhat against the current (not the tide), you were slowed down. But just how much? What is your speed "over the bottom?" (The speed that really counts in predicting your ETA.)

Once more, use your dividers and place one leg on your departure point A and the other on point D. Without changing the divider spread, measure the distance as usual on the lat. scale on either the right or left side of the chart. The distance just found is your speed over the bottom, and again, if everything was done right, you should find your speed over the bottom to be 5.8 knots.

Bearing in mind that a distance of ten miles has to be covered at 5.8 knots, rather than 6.4, we would find that it would take us 1 hour and 43 minutes 27 sec. instead of 1 hour and 33 minutes 45 sec. Right, it does not sound like much difference in time, but try it sometime if you are aiming for something in the fog.

Let's review. Position in lat. and long. Find course between two points; find distance between two points. Convert courses from true to mag. to compass and vice versa. Find course to steer with a given set and drift.

Find speed over bottom. Now that we know how to get from A to B with all the fine points, we are almost there.

Now we take bearings to reassure ourselves that we are on our intended track, to our final destination (the famous fishing hole). A "Bearing" depending how the term is used, could take on different meanings, and to confuse the issue a little further, can be taken with different instruments.

Essentially, a bearing is nothing more than the direction from the observer to an object. The principal instrument for taking bearings is the boat's master compass. Perhaps the most convenient instrument for small boats is a high quality "hand-bearing-compass." Another instrument is the "Pelorus" and the "R.D.F." (radio direction finder). Each has its purpose and advantage. Since the hand bearing compass is the most convenient to use aboard small boats. Let's look at it first.

Assuming we want to locate the shoal on the N/W side of Stratford Shoal Light by taking bearings, we simply would go ahead and draw in a few lines from the position we intend to find to some prominent shore object and establish the mag. direction of those lines. If we would use (1) the stack in Bridgeport 41.10'3 N. 73.11'1W (2) Stratford Shoal light and (3) the stack in 40.55'4N 73.20'6W, we would find that the mag. bearing of (1) would be 352 deg. (2) 131 deg., (3) 238.5 deg. to position the boat over the shoal. All that remains to be done, is sight those objects over the compass and move the boat in such a fashion that all three objects read on the compass the bearing that was previously established. This is best accomplished by deliberately going off to one side of your track when in the vicinity of the Shoal (we go a little to the left) and sight up on Stratford Light and continue on a course of 045 mag. until the light reads 131 on our hand bearing compass.

Now we would change course to 131, sight up on the stack in Bridgeport and continue on course until we find the bearing of the stack to be 352 deg. Now we should be on the Shoal (depth sounder - recorder) and at this point all bearings should be rechecked on all objects to assure best possible accuracy. Remember, to attain maximum accuracy choose prominent objects as close to you as possible. The bearing lines should cross at 90 deg. or as near to that as possible if two lines are used, and as close as possible to 60 deg. if three lines are used.

If a hand bearing compass is not available, the boat compass can be used very effectively in the following manner: place a mark exactly midship close to you (small piece of tape on windshield). Now aim the boat at your object by sighting over your mark and the stem of the boat. When all three are in line (your mark on the windshield, the sterm and the shore object), read the boat's compass for your bearing.

There is one little snag to this method. If your compass has any deviation, you must allow for this deviation. Example: if the deviation for 352 deg. mag. is 004 West, the compass bearing should then be 356 degr. for the equivalent of 352 mag. (remember the rule for converting) "Correcting Add East?"

The whole process can also be done in reverse; in other words, you can establish your position while en route by taking bearings on known objects and plot those bearings on the chart. Let's see if you can figure out the position in lat. and long. and what course to steer to "Budd Reef" in 41.01'7N. 73.26'1W.

The bearings taken were on (1) Old Field Point Light 40.58'6N. 73.07'1W. 118 deg. mag and (2) Stratford Shoal Light 41.03'6N. 73.06'1W. 060 deg. mag.

The set of the current is 260 deg. true; drift 0.9 knots and the boat speed through the water is 12.6 knots. The deviation for this heading is 004 deg. West.

Required: Position in lat. and long. by the two bearings; true course to Budd Reef; distance to Budd Reef; the compass course to steer (allow for dev. and set and drift; speed over bottom; E.T.A. at Budd Reef (you depart from the established position at 09.46); what should the mag. bearing of Greens Ledge Light (41.02'5N. 73.26'7W) be when on the reef.

Good luck skipper. See you next week with the answers.

NOTE: For the sake of convenience and scale size, the current vector may be increased or decreased by dividing or multiplying the drift and boat speed through the water by the same number, without affecting the end result. Example: drift 0.9 miles and speed through water 6.4 knots. We decide the scale is too small and want to increase it by two. Now the drift becomes 1.8 miles and boat speed 12.8 knots. Obviously, if you want the speed over the bottom in knots, you must divide the distance measured by two. Sure, you can also scale the whole thing down by two or any other number to wind up with a scale that suits you best. Keep in mind, however, the larger the scale the more accurate you will be. No, don't worry about it if Point D falls beyond your destination. In fact, you can draw this whole current vector anywhere on the chart where it is out of the way, and where you can increase it in scale for accuracy.

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WHISKER LUNKIN'

Part Two — *by John Konior*

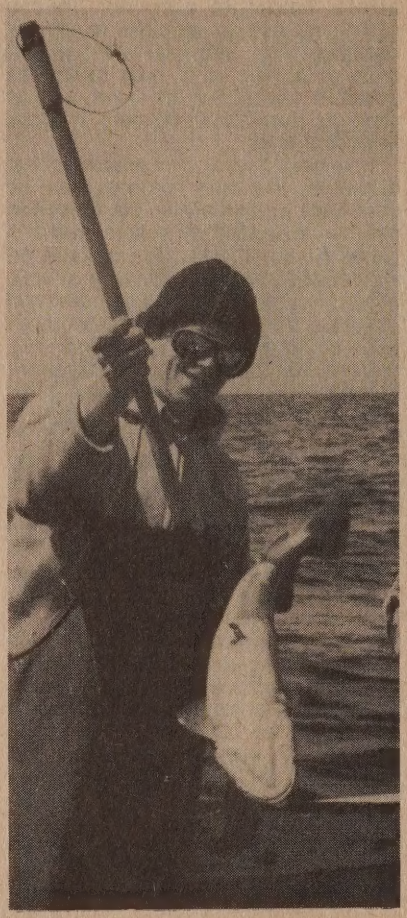
In this second and final segment, we will continue our discussion of techniques and also cover some basic tackle requirements.

ANCHORING. The rules are applicable to drag setting apply here as well. However, there are distinctive techniques applied, depending upon whether you anchor over a wreck or open bottom.

Open Bottom: The most important rule to follow is to attempt to get your rig away from the crowd. This is accomplished via an underhand cast. The vast majority of open boats do not allow overhead casting for obvious reasons. The technique involved in underhand casting takes some practice to get the hang of it. However, after a few attempts you'll start to get better. Your chances of performing this are greatly enhanced at either corner of the stern, or at or near the bow. The further away from the boat the better since it will be your bait that is not obstructed by other rigs and baits, and particularly improves your chances in the stern by getting your rig as far down-current as possible. It is probably the most important factor with respect to catching more and bigger fish.

The second most important factor to employ is the "dead stick approach." Once you've gotten your rig out, and it's on the bottom, leave it alone. Cod can be very wary creatures at times and don't take too kindly to a jumping, naked clam. The pros practice this technique and you can observe this for yourself. Become familiar with the light taps of pesty bergalls and other bottom pests. Cod bites, although somewhat light, are much stronger. When you encounter the first hit don't do anything other than taking up any slack. Wait for the second and better still, the third strong hit before setting the hook. You'll almost always ensure a deep-hooked fish with little chance of the hook pulling free.

The third important factor is the use of only one hook. The hook should be rigged two to three feet above the sinker. The hook should have a leader of two-and-a-half to three feet and must be stiff leader material; otherwise, the leader will twist around your line. Although many purists prefer to attach the hook via a loop knot and not clutter up the rig, I prefer to tie a three-way swivel into the line two-and-a-half to three feet above the sinker. At times, I also slip a three to four inch piece of clear quarter inch surgical tubing on the leader and onto the three-way swivel. My reasons are twofold: first, to allow the leader to twist with the swivel since cod are notorious in twisting while being reeled up. I suspect many a cod lost due to severe twisting with the result that the hook pulled out, the leader broke, or in any case, a mangled leader requiring change. Second, the tubing tends to prevent the leader from tangling with the line as often. You'll stand little chance of luring a cod to your hook if it's twisted around your line. One other related tip to minimizing leader foul-up. When you cast, or let your line out, allow the sinker to settle slowly at an angle.



This husky cod was landed on open bottom during one of those rare, calm, winter days. Photo by Katherine R. Gibson.

Wreck Fishing: Here, unlike open bottom, you don't want to do any casting unless you know you're off the wreck and must cast to reach it. Casting improves your chances of fouling up with the wreck, costing you time in re-rigging and money for new rigs. It's absolutely essential to fish a "dead stick." Wait for the cod to bite. Once you detect the bite, allow the cod a few seconds to swallow the bait, then strike hard and reel up quickly to avoid getting hung up in the wreck. On the chance that you do get hung up, don't yank and break the line. Wait a few seconds and slack up. Unless the rig is fouled, the cod, not feeling the line tension, will swim out of the obstruction. Often, with a fish on, it's the sinker that gets fouled. For this reason, it's important to tie a very weak knot for the sinker. Better to lose the sinker than the fish and/or the entire rig.

When wreck fishing, it's almost a certainty that you will hang up occasionally, otherwise you're not fishing in the right spot. Therefore, it's important that you pre-rig at least three to four back-up rigs to gain time in re-rigging. One trick that often works when you are hung up is to tighten the line as much as possible, without yanking, then releasing the line quickly (making sure you thumb the spool to prevent a bird's-nest) The sudden release will often free the hook from the obstruction. Try this technique several times before you decide to break off. I've found this technique to work at least half of the time.

Tackle: I prefer to use a seven foot medium/heavy standard rod with a fairly flexible tip. The tip aids in casting and in softening the lunges of the fish while being reeled up; this, in turn, tends to prevent line breakage and/or the hook being pulled out.

I also use a 3/0 or 4/0 Penn Senator, or its equivalent, loaded with forty pound test quality mono. I also prefer to use an oversize handle which eases reeling. Regardless of which reel you use, make sure it's equipped with a high quality star drag and that the drag is in good working order. You can test the drag by tightening it down to the point where it is difficult to pull off line. Yank the line and pull it off. If you encounter any binding or lock-up, it's time to change the washers.

The choice of line depends on your personal preference. Keep in mind the heavier the line, the more weight required to get it down due to greater resistance. While thirty pound test is okay for open bottom, provided you have a good drag, it tends to be a bit too light when wreck fishing. I find fifty pound test a bit too heavy, so I've decided on forty pound test.

As I pointed out previously, many of the purists prefer to eliminate any terminal gear whatsoever; e.g., swivels, quick rigs, etc. They prefer to

attach their hook via a loop knot tied two to three feet above the sinker. And they do well because they know how to handle their tackle and fish. Keep in mind, though, that a loop knot can weaken your line.

As I had mentioned before, I use a three-way swivel for attaching my leader. I prefer the swivel, tied two to three feet above the sinker for several reasons: I can attach my line using an improved clinch knot which tests out at over eighty percent, even more when using a double loop. Also, the swivel allows the leader to turn, minimizing twisting and leader foul-up with your main line. I make it a habit to pre-rig six rigs to minimize lost time in the event of hang-ups, foul-ups or deeply hooked fish. Throughout my entire discussion you may have noted that I only implied the use of one hook. Despite the allure of hanging on two hooks to double your chances...don't! Two hooks increase your chances of getting tangled, hanging up in the bottom, and being bothered by pesty bottom species, particularly when your second hook is rigged directly above the sinker. Stick to one hook attached two to three feet above the sinker.

As far as hook choice is concerned, I prefer short/medium shank 5/0 to 8/0 Sproat or Eagle Claw hooks, using a stiff two to two-and-a-half foot leader. At times, I will slip on a clear piece of three to four inch clear plastic tubing with one end embedded over the three-way swivel loop to which the leader is attached. The tubing tends to prevent the leader from becoming entangled with your line.

Bait: Party boats will supply skimmer clam as the standard bait. When using clam, make sure to cover your hook completely, leaving only the barb exposed. Thread the hard part of the clam up the hook leaving the soft belly parts hanging.

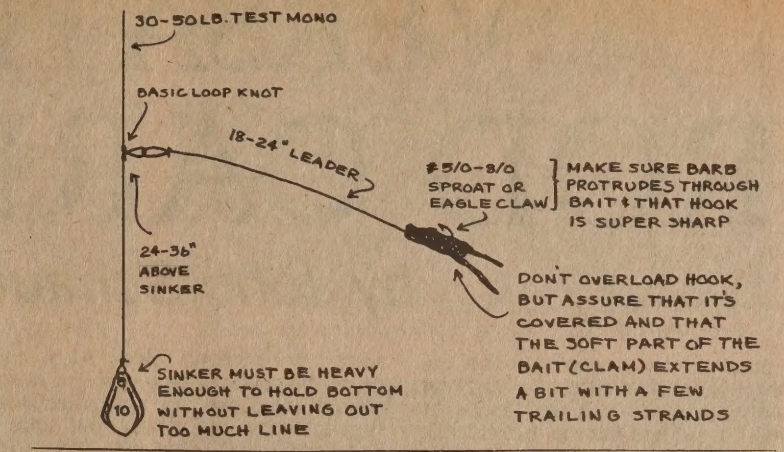
I like to increase my chances by bringing along some squid which I will use in combination with the clam, or will cut up any bergalls I've hooked into strips and will use a piece with clam. It often works when cod are picky.

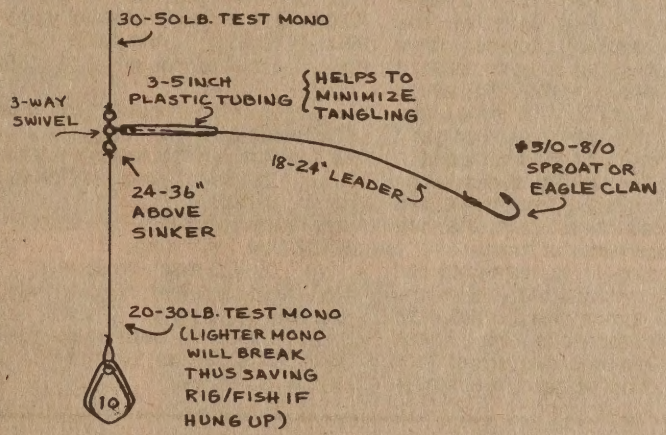
Don't get into the habit of overloading the hook; just make sure it's covered and that the hooks are extra sharp. File them even if new.

Don't let anyone kid you about how seemingly easy it is to catch cod. This may have been true in days gone by, but the jury is still out with respect to the potentially favorable effects of the recently imposed 200-Mile Limit on local catches.

It all boils down to applying some tricks to improve your chances, and some experience. So don't get discouraged if you don't succeed at first. Regardless of what I've discussed, always be alert to observing who is catching fish and why. You may have to make some on-the-spot adjustments, but if you follow the techniques I've outlined, you'll surely increase your chances of landing more and bigger cod.

BASIC COD RIGS


30-50LB. TEST MONO
BASIC LOOP KNOT
18-24" LEADER
#5/0-8/0 SPROAT OR EAGLE CLAW
MAKE SURE BARB PROTRUDES THROUGH BAIT & THAT HOOK IS SUPER SHARP
24-36" ABOVE SINKER
DON'T OVERLOAD HOOK, BUT ASSURE THAT IT'S COVERED AND THAT THE SOFT PART OF THE BAIT (CLAM) EXTENDS A BIT WITH A FEW TRAILING STRANDS
SINKER MUST BE HEAVY ENOUGH TO HOLD BOTTOM WITHOUT LEAVING OUT TOO MUCH LINE
10


30-50LB. TEST MONO
3-WAY SWIVEL
3-5 INCH PLASTIC TUBING
HELPS TO MINIMIZE TANGLING
18-24" LEADER
#5/0-8/0 SPROAT OR EAGLE CLAW
24-36" ABOVE SINKER
20-30LB. TEST MONO (LIGHTER MONO WILL BREAK THUS SAVING RIG/FISH IF HUNG UP)
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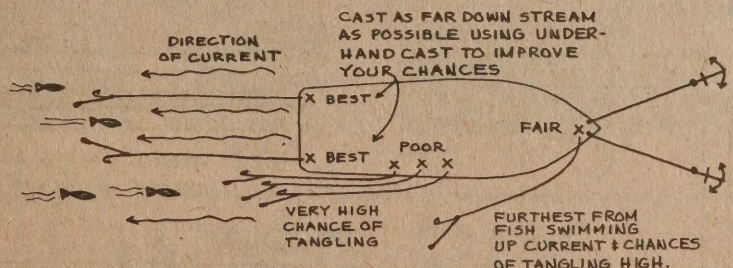
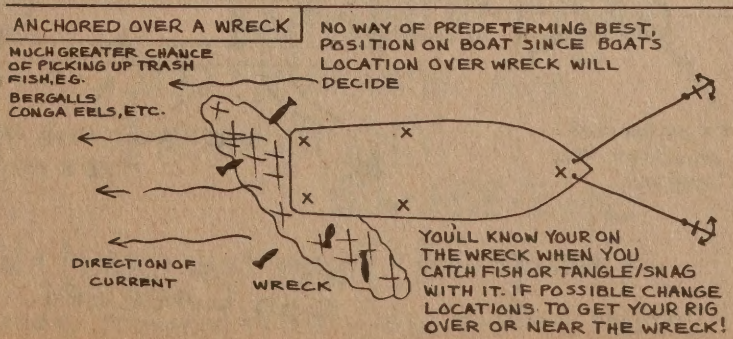
ANCHORED OVER OPEN BOTTOM


DIRECTION OF CURRENT
CAST AS FAR DOWN STREAM AS POSSIBLE USING UNDER-HAND CAST TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES
BEST
BEST
FAIR
POOR
VERY HIGH CHANCE OF TANGLING
FURTHEST FROM FISH SWIMMING UP CURRENT & CHANCES OF TANGLING HIGH.

ANCHORED OVER A WRECK


NO WAY OF PREDETERMING BEST, POSITION ON BOAT SINCE BOATS LOCATION OVER WRECK WILL DECIDE
MUCH GREATER CHANCE OF PICKING UP TRASH FISH, E.G. BERGALLS CONGA EELS, ETC.
DIRECTION OF CURRENT
WRECK
YOU'LL KNOW YOUR ON THE WRECK WHEN YOU CATCH FISH OR TANGLE/SNAG WITH IT. IF POSSIBLE CHANGE LOCATIONS TO GET YOUR RIG OVER OR NEAR THE WRECK!

VERSATILE ROD CARRIERS

by John Schauer

A good winter project for the surf fisherman or an angler who must cart numerous rods back and forth between home and boat is a rod carrier made from a standard roof rack. The average individual can make the carrier for about $28. This is a fairly reasonable price considering the extended use they will provide. I have made two racks and in both cases, I used the Sears Model #287281, which cost about $19.25, including tax. Packed with the rack is a very good selection of hardware which is used to assemble and mount the racks to the gutters of your car. If you own a van and should want a roof rack, they are also sold extra wide for vans.

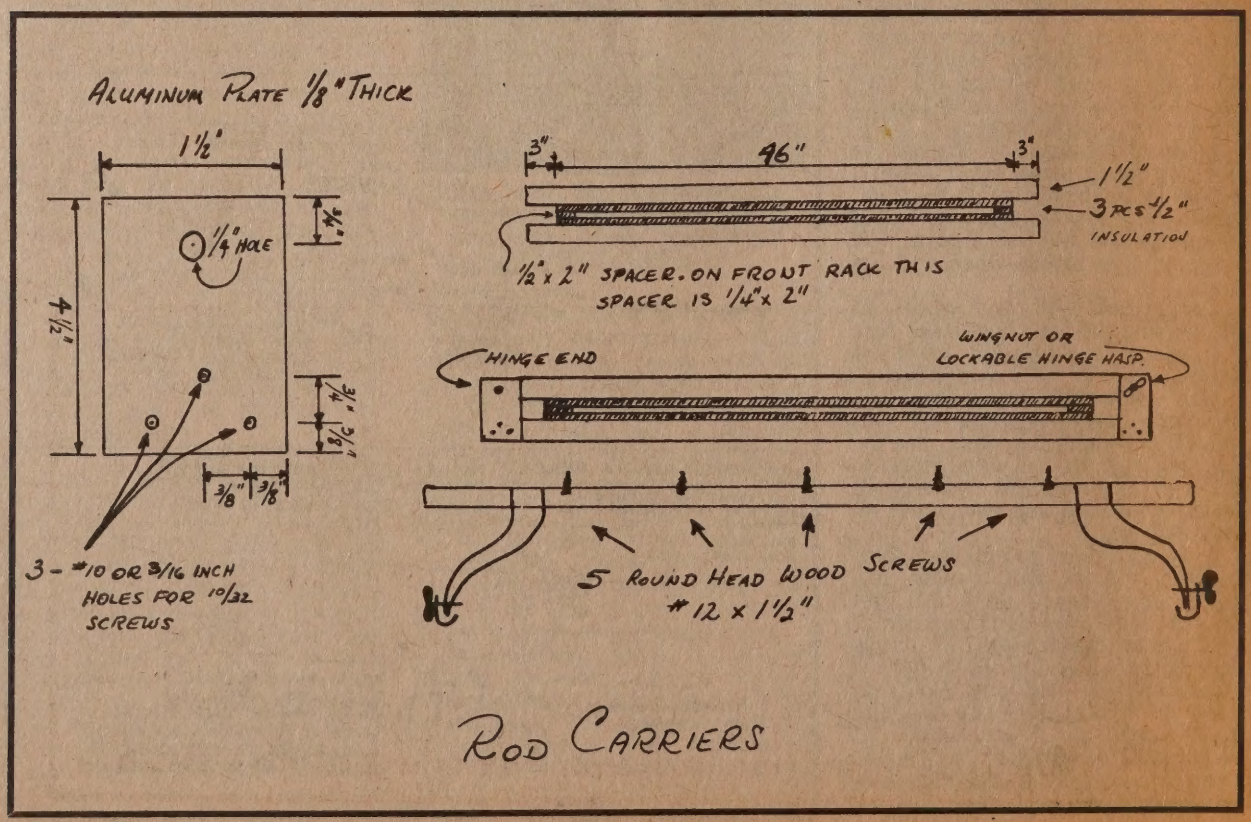
The first step is to assemble the racks and fit them to the roof of the car. The rack comes with protectors so they don't scratch the roof. These should be glued onto the rack or they will get lost. You can use five minute epoxy or pliobond glue. Also, the gutter hooks that come with the racks should be taped up with electrical tape so they won't scratch the gutter. The straps that come with the racks are not used and you probably can find another use for them. The following is a list of material you will need in addition to the racks:

Four pieces of furring strip, 1½''x52'' long.
Six pieces of aluminum, 1/8'' thick, 1½'' wide and 4½'' long.
1/2'' thick foam insulation material, enough to glue on one side of each furring strip.
1 dz. machine screws, preferably 10/32'' by 1¼'' long.
4, 1/4'' by #20 machine screws, 1¼'' long; two with regular nuts, two with wing nuts.
40 1/4'' inside diameter washers—24 for 10/32 screws; 10 for #12 round lead wood screws.
10, #12 round head wood screws preferably brass, 1½'' long.
2 brass hinge hasps. These are optional; you can use them if you want to lock the racks.
1 tube or can of Pliobond glue.

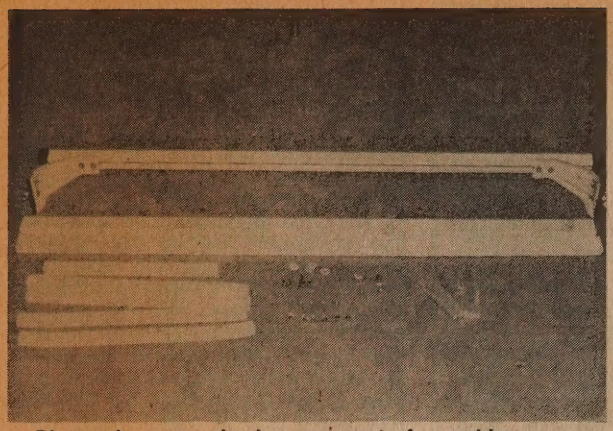
After you cut the furring strips to size, measure three inches in from each end and mark. Glue the 1/2 insulating foam between the mark (46'') on all four furring strips. After the glue is dry, cut three, two-inch pieces of 1/2 insulating material, glue two of these half-inch pieces on the end of the insulation that is already glued on. This is done for only one furring strip. This furring strip will be used as the bottom on the rear rod carrier (see diagram).

Now, take the other two inch piece of insulation and with a razor blade, slide the insulation lengthwise. This will give you two pieces 1/4'' by 2''.

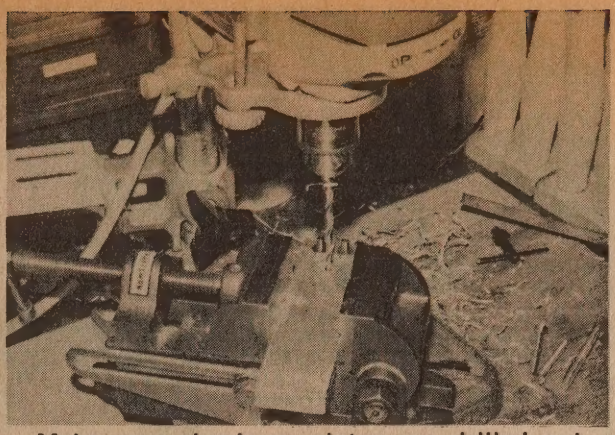
(Continued on page 20.)



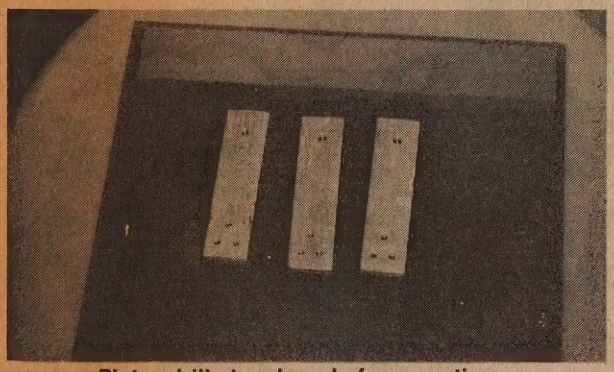
ROD CARRIERS



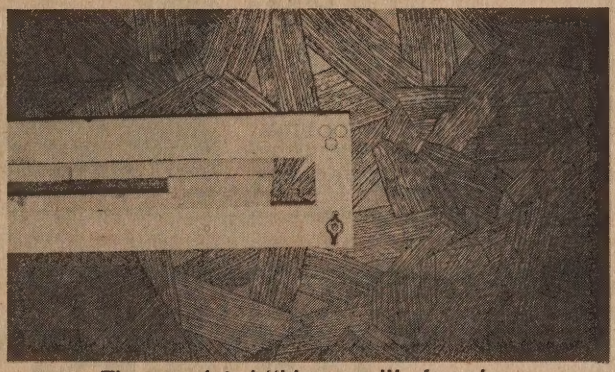
Pictured are required components for making your rod carrier.



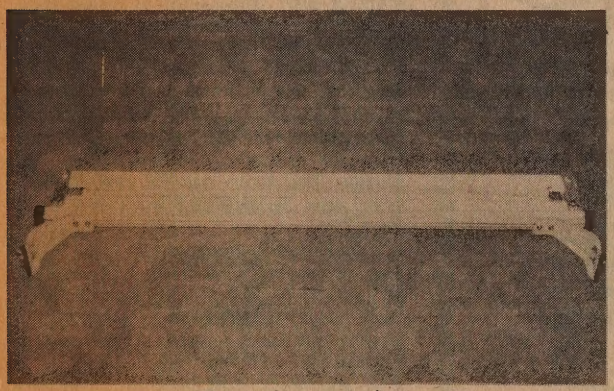
Make sure aluminum plates are drilled out accurately.



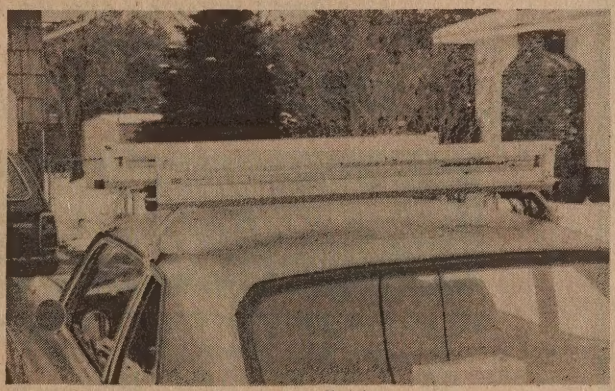
Plates drilled and ready for mounting.



The completed "hinge end" of carrier.



Ready for mounting.



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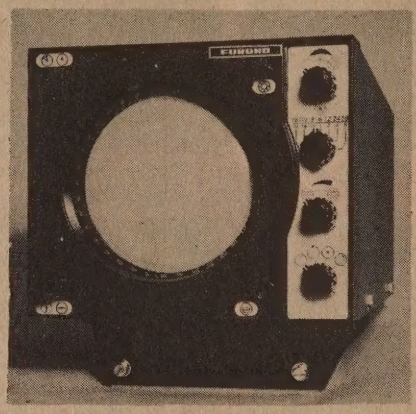

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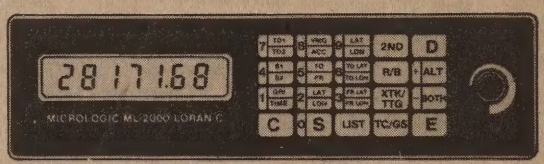

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Glue these two pieces onto another furring strip. This one will be used as the bottom of the front rod carrier. If you are going to transport relatively light rods, you might not want to do this for the front carrier. If you are carrying surf rods, the space between the insulation on the holders is just perfect. I use the Pliobond glue for all gluing. Just follow the instructions on the container. While the glue is drying, you can cut the aluminum plates which will be used on the end of the rod holders. Two will be used on the hinge end and one on the end that opens up. After the aluminum plates are cut to size, line them up in a vise to get them ready for drilling. You could drill all six at once, but I found it is best to do two at a time; be sure that the holes are drilled accurately otherwise the plates will not line up after the wood is drilled. Drill as per diagram. Use a #10 or 3/16'' drill bit for the 10/32 screw hole and a 1/4'' drill bit for the quarter-inch holes. After the aluminum is drilled and mounted on the bottom racks, tighten the screws and nuts and with a hammer peen over the end of the screw by the nut. Mount the top rack and drill the quarter-inch holes through the wood. Put a quarter inch washer on a screw and push through the hole; put on another washer and tighten the nut. Do not tighten all the way. Now, peen over the nut end of the quarter inch screw. This is only done on the hinge end. Next, drill the quarter inch hole through the wood on the end that opens. Insert the other quarter inch machine screw through the wood and aluminum and tighten the wing nut. You could also substitute the hinge hasp in place of the quarter inch screw. The hasp can be locked or a snap can be used to hold the hasp shut.

Now, mount the wooden rod rack to the metal roof rack, using five of the #12 round head wood screws for each rack. Back the screws up with a 1/4'' inside diameter washer. The rack is complete.

If you wish, you can paint the rack to match your car or leave it bare. I would at least give the wood a coat of varnish or linseed oil. This will prevent the wood from cracking and rotting.

I have used one of these racks on my Karman Ghia for almost six years. For the first few years, the rack was never painted and held up great. I just painted it last year because it was getting a little beat-up. I try not to leave the rack on the car all the time because the wind resistance it creates does put a dent in the gas mileage. It is easy enough to put on and take off as needed.

As far as carrying capacity is concerned, I've had five 11½' surf rods on the rack and had no problem whatsoever. So, if you are going nuts and need a good rod carrier, this is a perfect project for one of these cold winter nights.

HOW TO SPECIAL FEATURE:

A QUALITY CHUM POT

by John Henning

So often the only difference between wetting your line and rusting your hooks, and filling a barrel, is the chum pot. Few, if any, species of fish will not respond to chumming. Here is an easy to make, quality chum pot which doubles as a bottom pounder.

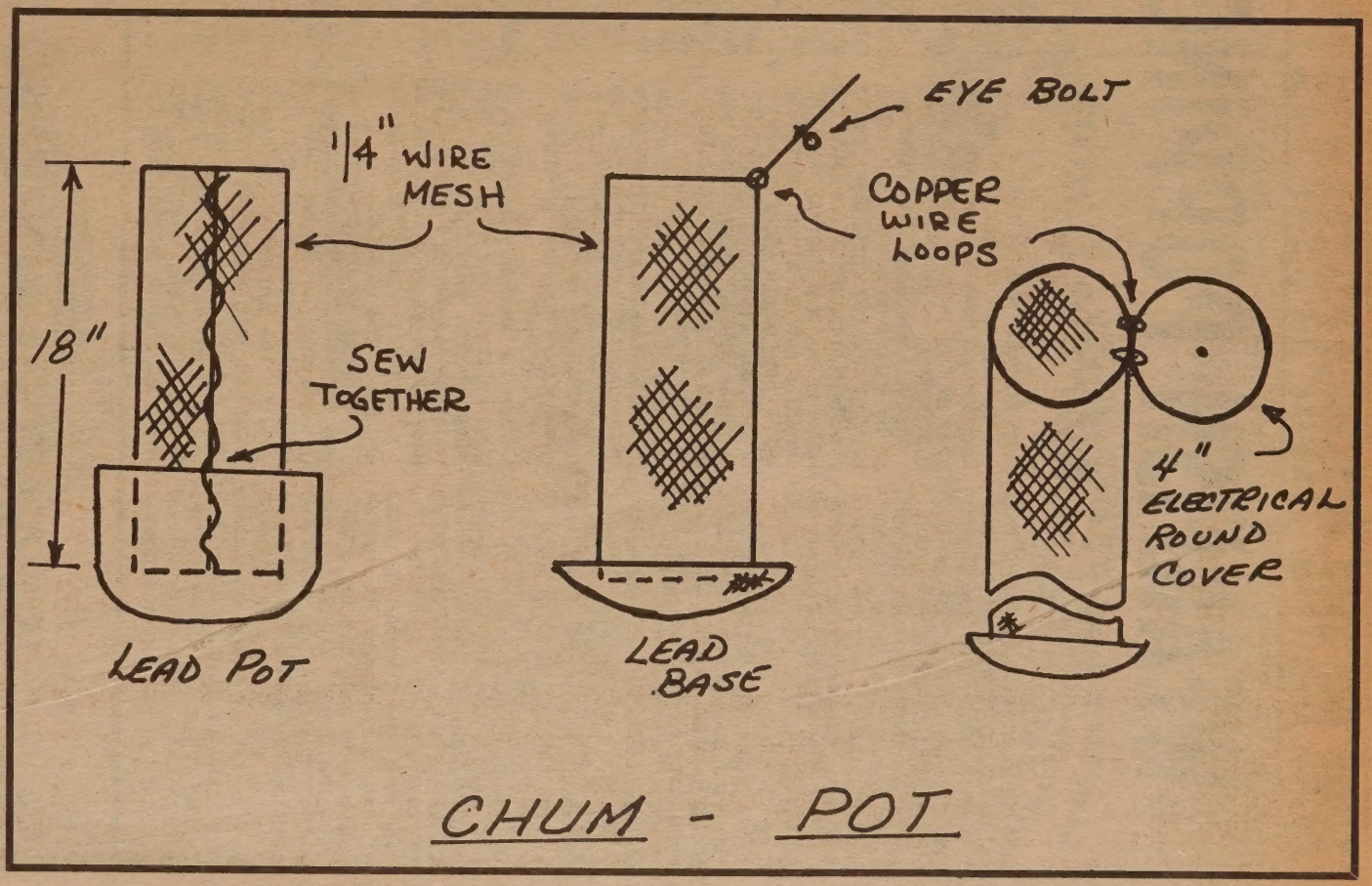
First, you'll need a piece of quarter-inch galvanized wire mesh, 36'' wide and 18'' long. Cut into two 15'' by 18'' pieces. You are going to roll it into an approximately four inch diameter sleeve.

Sew this sleeve with some old stainless or monel wire line. Simply weave through the overlapped mesh holes.

It's now an 18'' long cylinder. Place approximately five to eight pounds of lead in your lead melting pot, melt and let harden around the wire mesh. Caution: make sure the wire is **dry**. Only heat the lead hot enough to melt; you don't want to overheat your galvanized wire and ruin it. This would cause rust later on in its life.

A four inch round electrical cover, also galvanized, will top off the project. Drill two holes for wire ties to hold the cover to the wire cylinder. Another hole should be drilled in the center for an eye-bolt so your line can be attached. Make your wire ties fairly loose so the cover swings easily. Check these and line often for wear.

Now you are ready to fill with chum, lower to the bottom, and have it stay where you want it. From time to time, bouncing helps stir the bottom, creating a better chum line.



ROD OF THE WEEK:

WEAKFISH POPPING ROD

by Pete Barrett

There is perhaps more confusion over what makes a good weakfish rod than any custom made rod. Some anglers prefer the long, weepy rods with a noddle-soft action because they don't want to tear the hooks from the soft mouth tissues of weakfish. Others prefer a stiffer rod with the opinion that it is better to play the fish quickly and get him in the boat as quickly as possible so there is less chance of losing the fish in a long battle.

Both proponents are correct and there is a simple solution that should keep both sides happy. There are several progressive taper rods that are ideal for weakfishing, whether you cast bucktails in Delaware Bay, drift squid in the Peconics or diamond jig with small metal squids. Too fast a taper results in a rod with too firm a butt section and a tip with no strength for fighting a fish; but the happy medium, a rod with a light tip for sensitivity in playing the fish, yet with enough backbone in the butt to play him with some authority is what we are looking for.

The rods were first used by Texas and Florida fishermen for redfish (small channel bass) and spotted sea trout—the kissin' cousin of our weakfish. The name "popping" rod comes from the style of fishing where a cork or styrofoam float attached above the bait was jerked on top of the water to cause a 'popping' sound that attracted strikes. The same rod works well in our area too, and it is unusual to now find a tackle shop that doesn't stock this style rod.

They also do double duty as a flounder and fluke rod, and are ideal as a general purpose rod for small boat fishing.

Blanks. Depending on the softness of the action, there are many, many blanks to choose from to build a good rod. Keep in mind that the softer the rod, the less of a fighting tool it is, while too stiff a rod can cause lost fish. Typical blanks would include the Shakespeare 12-0528, Dynaflex 5702, Lamiglas MB-84-3M, Harrington 445, Fenwick SP 844F and LB966 (cut eight to twelve inches from the butt). There are many other suitable rods, so use this list as a starting point to compare these blanks to others that you may find at your tackle dealers. Some of the blanks are available in either two-piece or one-piece—whichever is your preference.

There is also a wide range of graphite blanks available. My personal favorite, even though it is a two-piece rod, is the Fenwick GSP-844F. Other excellent blanks include the Lamiglas GLB841M, GLB841L and the Loomis GLB702F.

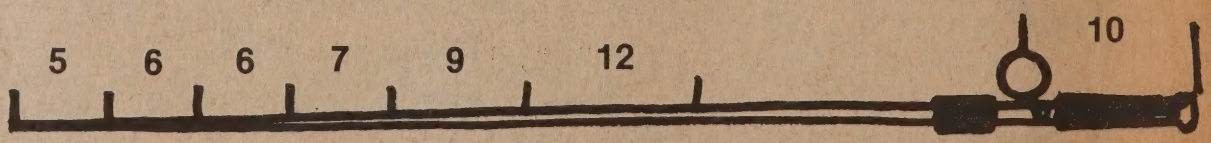
Cork **Grips** are my preference for the most sensitive rod when using a graphite blank, but the hard cellite or other hard foam grips are also suitable. The butt end of the handle should be long enough to facilitate easy two-handed casting, placement in a flush mount gun'l rod holder and to tuck comfortably under your arm while fishing. To determine the position of the reel seat, tuck the rod under your arm as if fishing and mark the spot where your hand naturally falls to grip the rod. The reel should be just ahead of this spot.

Reel seat should be lightweight, but quality aluminum. Buy the best rather than a cheap seat which may quickly corrode. There is a popping rod style reel seat of chromed brass with a small trigger at the base of the seat which you may like. Others don't like the trigger and remove it, then dress the weld spot with a fine file. Many popping rods are built with the reel seat reversed for more comfort for your casting hand as it rests on the foam grip rather than the threads of the reel seat.

Guides should also be lightweight, either hard-chromed or the newer ceramic or aluminum oxide type.

Tips. Like all rod blanks, these, too, can be trimmed at the tip end to arrive at a stiffer rod, or from the butt to enhance the light tip action. Many of these blanks are seven feet long, yet the ideal length most often favored is a rod about six-and-a-half feet long, so you do have room to custom trim the rod, or leave the blank as is with no cutting at all. Some fishermen have a tendency to place too many guides on a popping rod, yet the best number is usually about seven, depending on the blank's action. Too many guides will hinder casting ability and add weight with no practical fish fighting benefits.

WEAKFISH POPPING ROD



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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

BY FRED GUARDINEER

1 **SHARKS** SEEK PREY PRIMARILY BY SIGHT ALONE. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

2 **THE GREY GHOST STREAMER,** A POPULAR TROUT FLY FISHING LURE, WAS ORIGINATED BY MRS. JOAN WULFF ☐ MRS. STAN GIBBS ☐ MRS. CARRIE STEVENS ☐

3 **THE FIRE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE,** A LONG ISLAND LANDMARK SINCE 1858, NOW BATTERED AND BEAT, STILL SENDS OUT A SIGNAL.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

4 **THE GERMAN CARP** IS A NATIVE FISH OF:

AUSTRALIA ☐
AFRICA ☐
EUROPE ☐
CHINA ☐
U.S.A. ☐

5 **SOME SALTWATER** AND GREAT LAKES FISHERMEN DEPEND ON THIS TERMINAL TACKLE TO FILL THEIR FREEZERS. IT IS A _____

6 **WHILE** VACATIONING DOWN IN FLORIDA I DID SOME FISHING AND CAUGHT AN 8 LB. MANGROVE SNAPPER. DO THEY GET MUCH BIGGER, A READER ASKS ?

1 - FALSE. ODORS AND VIBRATIONS EMITTED BY PREY CAN BE AS IMPORTANT AS SIGHT. 2 - MRS. CARRIE STEVENS. 3 - TRUE. ONE FLASH PER MINUTE FROM SUNDOWN TO DAWN. 4 - CHINA. 5 - TROLLING SNUBBER, USED AHEAD OF A LURE, IT CUSHIONS THE STRIKE OF A BIG FISH AND AUTOMATICALLY SETS THE HOOK. 6 - AN EIGHT-POUNDER IS BIG. MANGROVE OR GRAY SNAPPERS SELDOM EXCEED 10 LBS.

Cold Water Survival Update:

WHAT'S NEW?

by Dr. Einar Grell

With more anglers and hunters tending to prolong the boating season into months with colder water temperatures, it is imperative that all of us who mess around water keep constantly abreast of the latest findings pertaining to the problem of hypothermia which means lowered, deep body temperature. Actually, hypothermia is a problem always present when the water temperature is lower than that of our body temperature, which is 98.6° F. A quick look at any survival chart dealing with hypothermia will very quickly point out one outstanding fact and that is, the cooler the water your body is placed in the shorter time you have to survive. Study the chart with this article, estimate various temperatures of water that accidents could place you in and figure out approximately how much survival time you have in the water, assuming that you are a healthy individual.

Scientists at the University of Victoria have been studying the effects on humans of immersion in cold ocean water under conditions similar to those experienced following boating accidents. The results are being used to find ways to increase survival time through knowledge of behaviors in the water which reduce the body cooling rate and through design of a life jacket that offers thermal protection. Even a small increase in survival time can mean the difference between being alive or dead when rescuers arrive.

The following questions attempt to focus attention on the major problems and recommendations about cold water survival. The questions and answers should be studied thoroughly. The information offered could save your life.

What is hypothermia and how does it kill? Hypothermia means lowered, deep body temperature. In cold water, the skin and external tissues become cooled very rapidly, but it takes ten to fifteen minutes before the temperature of the heart, brain and internal organs begin to cool. Intense shivering occurs in an attempt to increase the body's heat production and counteract the large heat loss. Unconsciousness can occur when the deep body temperature falls from the normal 37.5° C. (99.5° F.) to approximately 32° C. (89.6° F.). Heart failure is the usual cause of death when the deep body temperature cools to below 30° C. (86° F.).

Author demonstrates a full survival suit which maximizes thermal protection.

How long can I survive in cold water? The accompanying graph shows average predicted survival times of average, adult humans in water at different temperatures. The figures are based on experimental cooling of average men and women who were holding still in ocean water and wearing a standard life jacket and light clothing. The graph shows, for example, that predicted survival time is about two-and-a-half to three hours in water of 10° C. (50° F.). This water temperature is typical water temperature found around Long Island during spring and fall flounder season, as well as the codfish season. It is a fact worthy of our deepest consideration since many of us are having fun on the water when it is this cold. Survival time is increased by extra body fat and decreased by small body size. Although women generally possess slightly more fat than men they cool slightly faster due to their usual smaller body size. Due to even smaller body size, children cool much faster than adults.

Should I swim to keep warm if I find myself in the water? NO. Although the body produces almost three times as much heat when swimming slowly and steadily in cold water compared to holding still, this extra heat and more is lost to the cold water due to more blood circulation to the arms, legs and skin. Results show that the average person swimming in a life jacket cools thirty-five percent faster than when holding still.

How far can I swim? Shore may be close enough to reach by swimming despite a faster cooling rate with this activity. Tests conducted on people swimming in ocean water of 10° C. (50° F.) wearing standard life jackets and light clothing showed that the average person could cover a distance of 0.85 miles before being incapacitated by hypothermia. It is not easy to judge distance, especially under emergency conditions in rough, cold water, but at water temperatures near 10° C., shore should be within one mile before making the decision to swim. The distance covered will

WATER TEMP. Fahrenheit	EXHAUSTION OR UNCONSCIOUSNESS	EXPECTED SURVIVAL TIME
32.5	Under 15 minutes	10-45 minutes
32.5-40	15-30 minutes	39-90 minutes
40-50	30-60 minutes	1-3 hours
50-60	1-2 hours	1-6 hours
60-70	2-7 hours	2-40 hours
70-80	3-12 hours	3 hours-indefinite
Over 80	Indefinitely	Indefinitely

HYPOTHERMIA!

The U.S. Coast Guard knows how quickly cold water kills. And with the average body temperature at 98.6°F, the water does not have to be all that cold to be very dangerous. Hypothermia, or the lowering of the body's core temperature, is the real killer!

SITUATIONS	PREDICTED SURVIVAL TIME (HOURS)
NO FLOTATION	
Drownproofing	1.5
Treading Water	2.0
WITHOUT FLOTATION	
Swimming	2.0
Holding Still	2.7
H.E.L.P. Position	4.0
Huddle	4.0
UVic Thermofloat	9.5

obviously be affected by one's swimming ability, amount of insulation and water conditions. Another very important factor to consider before making the "to swim" decision is that of tidal current and wave action. More than one person has died attempting to make shore through the fast-moving currents of our local inlets such as those of Fire Island, Jones, Moriches, and Rockaway. Yes, making the "to swim" decision can be not only the most important in a person's life, but the LAST ONE.

What if I have no life jackets or other flotation? If you find yourself in this very unfortunate situation, you will be forced to adopt either of the following two "anti-drowning" techniques: You can tread water, which involves a continuous movement of arms and legs in various patterns, keeping the head out of the water. Test results show an average cooling rate of subjects treading water that was thirty-four percent faster than while holding still in a life jacket.

Or you can drown-proof yourself. This procedure involves restful floating with lungs full of air interrupted every ten to fifteen seconds for raising the head out of the water to breathe. By this procedure, even non-swimmers can avoid drowning for many hours in reasonably warm water. In the warmer months when the average surface temperature of our waters falls to the 17° C. (62.5° F.) to 20° C. (68° F.) zone, this method of drown-proofing resulted in a body cooling rate in cold ocean water of 10° C. (50° F.) that was eighty-two percent faster than while holding still in a life jacket! This is mostly due to putting the head (a high heat loss area) into the water along with the rest of the body. In studies so far, drown-proofing in cold water appears to be the fastest way to die from hypothermia.

What parts of my body are the most critical for heat loss? In addition to the head, which is normally out of the water, certain other body regions have high rates of heat loss while a subject is holding still in cold water. Infrared pictures show that the sides of the chest where there is little muscle or fat are major routes for heat loss from the warm chest cavity. The groin region also loses much heat due to large blood vessels near the surface. If an effort is made to conserve body heat, these regions deserve special attention.

What activities or behaviors will increase survival time? Two techniques tested reduce heat loss from the critical areas already referred to: top of head, rib cage, and groin. The first technique is that of H.E.L.P. (Heat Escape Lessening Posture) which involves a person holding the inner side of the arms tight against the side of the chest over the "hot region" already described. The thighs are pressed together and raised to close off the groin region. This body position results in nearly a fifty percent increase in predicted survival time. It is a position which should be practiced by all boaters.

Another technique which increases survival time is that of the "huddle." Common sense would predict longer survival times with huddling. Studies show that if the huddle is formed so that the sides of the chest of different persons are held close together, a fifty percent increase in predicted survival time is obtained similar to that of the H.E.L.P. technique.

Do different types of life jackets offer more or less thermal protection? Tests conducted at the University of Victoria have shown that Personal Flotation Devices fall into three categories of thermal (heat) protection.

In the **poor** thermal protection category are all kapok and loose-fitting foam life jackets of the vest type. These devices offer no significant protection from cold water.

In the **fair** thermal protection category were a few PFDs of two types: foam vests possessing good adjustability for close fit to the chest, and garment type flotation jackets using buoyant and insulative foam between inner and outer layers of fabric. These two types offered significant thermal protection to the extent of a fifty to seventy-five percent increase in predicted survival times.

In the **good** thermal protection group were two PFDs of the type making a deliberate attempt to maximize thermal protection. One was a full "survival suit" which included foam in the legs. The other was a convertible jacket "UVic Thermafloat" which is modified to allow trapping of water within insulative foam over the major heat area of the body.

The two preceding PFDs described showed nearly a four-fold increase in predicted survival time.

Does alcohol consumption effect survival time? Alcohol consumption leads to a decrease in shivering and an increase in blood flow close to the surface of the body. This makes one feel warmer, although heat loss from the body is actually accelerated. Studies relating to the effect of alcohol consumption on survival time in cold water are inconclusive. However, at a time of critical decision making, anything which impairs one's ability to think is undesirable, so **avoid alcohol.** Alcohol should definitely not be given to a hypothermic victim who has been rescued from the water.

Do people ever die of "shock" when falling into cold water? Immersion in cold water, especially if sudden, causes immediate major changes in body function and there are isolated instances of sudden death being reported, but these are very uncommon. The cause of this sudden death is not clear and a number of different reasons have been suggested. One is a form of heart attack resulting from the increase in heart rate and changes in blood pressure which accompany immersion in cold water. However, this is unlikely to occur with someone with a healthy heart and circulatory system. Other possible causes of death are related to hyperventilation which everyone experiences in response to the shock of cold water. It is possible that if one had plunged underwater or was in a rough sea condition that the hyperventilation could lead to uncontrolled inhalation of water and a form of drowning. Prolonged hyperventilation can lead to unconsciousness and subsequent drowning.

Because panic can magnify any of

(Continued on next page.)

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the above responses, it is important to remain calm and methodical if faced with a cold water emergency. If possible, enter the water gradually allowing the body to adjust to the changing temperature. Consciously control your breathing as much as possible. The more clothing and insulation your body has, the less will be the initial shock of entry into cold water.

What about children? In addition to being smaller, children generally have less fat than their adult counterparts and these two factors make them particularly vulnerable to cold water. People are often deceived by the fact that small children play around cold water for long periods; but observation will show that they do not remain immersed for long periods.

In the event of a family being immersed, it is important for the parents to either get children partially or completely out of the water or on some form of flotation (e.g., an upturned boat). If no flotation is available, the adults should sandwich the child or children between them to help equalize the cooling rates of all involved.

The preceding procedures take advantage of two important pieces of information: in almost all weather conditions, the more of the body that is out of the water, the slower it cools; if immersion is unavoidable, the less of a body's surface area that is exposed to the water, the better.

How do you rewarm someone who's been in cold water? The first step is to get people out of the water and remove their wet clothes. The type of rewarming depends on the degree of hypothermia evident. If the victim is conscious, talking clearly and sensibly and shivering vigorouly, then just getting them to a dry environment and providing hot drinks and general warmth will probably be sufficient (unless they show obvious signs of deterioration). If the victim is getting stiff and is either unconscious or showing signs of clouded consciousness such as slurred speech, aggressive rewarming is important.

Once shivering has stopped, it is no use wrapping them in blankets if there is no source of heat. This merely keeps them cold. A way must be found to warm the victim as quickly as possible.

The following methods can all be used in delivering heat to the hypothermic victim:

1. Heated saturated gas. This technique proved the most effective of the rewarming methods tested at the University of Victoria. It enables heat to be delivered to the core of the body minimizing the temperature afterdrop which alway occurs in the early phase of rewarming. This technique requires the appropriate apparatus to heat, humidify, and deliver the gas but it is relatively inexpensive and simple to operate.

2. Hot baths. If possible keep the legs and arms out of the bath so the trunk is warmed first. Place victim in the bath with the water at approximately 21° C. (70° F.) and raise it over ten minutes to approximately 43.3° C. (110° F.).

3. Hot showers.

4. Hot towels applied to the areas of high heat transfer already described: sides of rib cage, groin, etc.

5. Direct body contact. If no external sources of heat are available the rescuer should remove his clothing and cover himself and the victim, ensuring that there is as much body contact as possible.

6. Many other methods such as electric blankets, heating pads, hot drinks, etc., will all contribute to the rewarming process.

Where possible, have the victim transported to a hospital where more sophisticated rewarming techniques can be continued. Again, it should be stressed, DO NOT give the victim alcoholic drinks.

The accompanying table summarizes how a selection of different situations can affect predicted survival time of the average adult in water of 10° C. (50° F.). It should be noted that because of variations in body build, ocean conditions, clothing, swimming ability, weather conditions, tidal conditions, etc., survival time of specific individuals will vary enormously. The figures of the chart provide only a guide. The importance of the chart is not in predicting how long you will survive.

SOME FACTS TO SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT:

General body hypothermia is the leading cause of death AMONG SURVIVORS of maritime casualties who are immersed in the water. The sinking of the Titanic in 1912 provided a dramatic example of the effects of cold water immersion. Partially due to a lack of preparedness with protective clothing, adequate flotation equipment, and a knowledge of survival procedures, none of the 1,489 persons immersed in the 32° water was alive when the rescue vessels arrived one hour and fifty minutes after the sinking. Interestingly, almost all of the people in lifeboats were alive. If not recognized and treated promptly, hypotheria can rapidly turn a survivor into a fatality.

During and subsequent to, rescue operations, a survivor in a critical hypothermia condition may suffer a fatal loss of body temperature due either to physical exertion or a delay in taking immediate positive measures to restore body heat.

WHAT ARE SPECIFIC SYMPTOMS OF HYPOTHERMIA?

The most useful yardstick in evaluating hypothermia is the body temperature. The hypothermia victim has an internal, core temperature which is lower than normal. It is emphasized that only core temperatures are relevant. This means that oral temperatures cannot be used and rectal temperatures must be obtained from a site at least 10-15 cm beyond the

anus.

For the most part, the hypothermia victim is pale in appearance and the skin is very cold to the touch. In fact, skin and underlying tissues are often at the immersion water temperature. The victim's pupils begin to dilate at core temperatures near 92° F. and are fully dilated and poorly reactive to light at around 86° F.

When the victim is conscious, alert and may have vigorous shivering, the core temperature is above 95° F.

When the victim is conscious, but has a mild to moderate clouding of mental capacities in conjunction with diminished shivering, his core temperature will be between 90° to 85° F.

When victim has severe clouding of consciousness or may be unconscious, shivering is replaced by muscular rigidity; core temperature will be between 86° to 90°. Below 86°, the victim is unconscious with diminished respirations. Below 80°, the victim has barely detectable or non-detectable respiration.

Shivering. Shivering is a reflex mechanism used by the body to produce heat. It becomes increasingly vigorous and uncontrollable near core temperatures of 95° F., but it steadily diminishes between 90° to 95°. Shivering is replaced by muscular rigidity between 86° to 90° F.

Respiratory rate. Respiration is initially increased in the early stages of hypothermia. However, as the core temperature falls below 92° F., the respiratory rate gradually diminishes. At low core temperatures, respiration is very slow and often labored.

Blood pressure and pulse. Blood pressure is lower than normal. It is frequently less than 100 mm. of mercury systolic. The pulse is generally slow and often irregular. It may be difficult to determine or locate in the extremities because of blood vessel constriction. Thus, the best location for measuring the heart rate is in the neck artery area or in the groin at the femoral arteries.

Level of consciousness. Individuals suffering from hypothermia often have alterations in their level of consciousness. As the core temperature decreases to 90° F., the consciousness becomes progressively more clouded. Loss of consciousness occurs between 86° and 90° F.

CONCLUSION: THE COLD FACTS

1. If you enter water of 32° F. (0° C) to 40° F. (4° C) shock might kill you instantly, or succumb within minutes to heat loss. If you fall into water above these temperatures, you still have the hypothermia problem—the only difference being you have a longer survival time in which to contemplate your fate.

2. The standard life jacket keeps you afloat, but when cold sets in, you will probably die unless rescue is nearby.

3. Water is a wonderful conductor of cold. Increased movement in the water only decreases your chances of survival.

4. Any water lower than your body temperature of 98° F. (37° C) will cool you, in time, to the point of hypothermia.

5. It's also a fact that your body needs flotation in addition to thermal protection in the water.

YOUR CHANCE AND CHOICE FOR SURVIVAL.

Revolutionary scientific advancement in life-saving devices has brought forth the survival or exposure suit which gives you flotation and warmth needed to survive the rigors of the cold, unforgiving ocean, bay or lake.

There are several survival suits presently on the market which have gained the strong approval and rigorous standards of the U.S. Coast Guard. They have been tested and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and Underwriters Laboratory. A couple of suits smart fishermen might look into are those made by the Imperial Manufacturing Company of Bremerton, Washington (Penguin Suit) and another suit made by Bayley Suit Inc., of Fortuna, California.

Tests done by the U.S. Navy Clothing and Textile Research Unit (Bulletin 97) indicate that survival times of thirteen hours and more can be expected in water temperatures of 35° F. when worn over normal clothing. Normal survival time for victims not wearing survival suits in water of that temperature is usually less than thirty minutes. These garments come in a storage bag about the size of a sleeping bag. Life expectancy of the suit is almost indefinite if not exposed to temperatures over 150° F. Maintenance is minimal. After use, the suit is rinsed in fresh water and allowed to dry in temperatures below 150° F. If the suit is torn it can be repaired easily by gluing together with wet suit cement (neoprene contact cement).

These suits can be put on easily and have flotation in addition to thermal insulation properties. Flotation of these suits is equal to or better than the present life jackets which **alone** are not considered totally satisfactory for survival of men in the sea.

United States Coast Guard CG-D-14-73 Tests conducted by Battelle state "History has shown that the majority of unprotected men who have found themselves in cold water, even when buoyed by life preservers, have died before they have been rescued."

With more and more boatmen purchasing these neoprene, Dr. Denton Kiddy Pajama-like suits, the Coast Guard now continues to search longer for missing fishermen because more and more sailors are bobbing like corks long after they should be dead from exposure.

Lieutenant Commander Jim Shaw of the 13th District Coast Guard search and rescue unit in Seattle states "When you find people floating around for an inordinate amount of time, it sort of sells you on the concept. A good survival suit helps stack the deck for the mariner."

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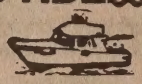

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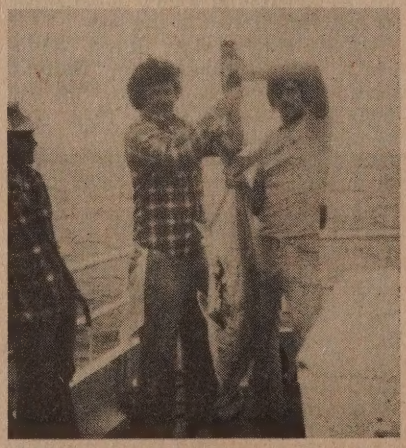
COD

CAPTREE

Capt Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** called to let you know that with the last few days of warming weather the ice has moved out of the Captree Basin and out of Fire Island Inlet. Sounds of hungry flounder can be heard when the wind dies down. Gordon and crew are getting the boat ready for the flounder pounding season and he says his first sailing should be by the second weekend in March.

On the codfishing scene, Capt George Tweedy of the **Capt Scotty** had 6 cod on Sunday with 3 fish in the 25 to 30 lb. range. In general, the skipper advises, the cod action this past week and weekend has been on the slow side with the offshore waters still remaining very cold. Things should improve with the warming trend.

Capt Carmine of the charterboat **Rendova Island** asked us to let you know that Capt John Gutman and old time local skipper with lots of hours under his keel, is joining the **Rendova Island** and will be handling the wheel house chores along with Carmine.



Captain Joe Ferrara, skipper of City Island's "Ebb Tide II," checked this 45 lb. amberjack on a recent Key West trip aboard the Ranger V.

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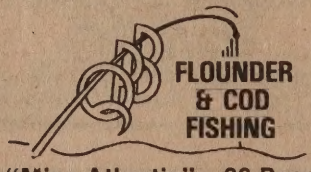
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SURF FISHING:

(Continued from page 11.)

Now, continue with your wrapping until you reach near the end of the loop, snip off the winding thread, slip it through the loop, and pull the whole thing underneath the wrap by tugging on the tag ends of the loop thread slowly and steadily. You should keep pulling until the complete loop slides out from under the wrap from the other end, which will wedge your wrapping thread end firmly under the entire wrap. This is called a whip finish, and is the same one that is used for wrapping rods.

Trim the excess butt hairs that stick over the jig head with a single-edged razor blade, being extremely careful not to cut the wrapping. Now we have an unpainted jig, and you can fish it as it is or paint it. If you paint it, you can go about it in the same manner described above for painting plugs, or you can dip it in epoxy, which will give you a much tougher finish. If you decide to dip it in epoxy, dip it in slightly beyond the wrap, shake it off to remove excess paint, and hang it to dry. When the paint has completely dried, dip the jig once more, again up to just beyond the wrap, and hang the jig up to dry again.

This time, after that second coat has dried thoroughly, you've got a lure that is ready to catch some fish. Take it out and use it well next season, and lots of luck to you. If any of you have any questions regarding any of my articles, please get in touch with me through the magazine and I'll be happy to help. By the same token, all you guys who catch fish with the lures you fixed this past winter can get in touch also. I like to hear happy talk!

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Peter Drozin used light tackle to put away this pair of tide-runners in Ambrose Channel last fall. Subscriber photo.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
COD

FREEPORT

Capt Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** says that while the codfishing this past week and weekend has been on the poor side, his passengers are still managing pool fish each day in the low 20 lb. range. Richie also says that once the fridgid water gives us a break with the warming trend, catches should improve once more.

Eleven-year-old Edward Schaefer gets a hand from his dad, Ed Sr., in displaying the 16½ lb. chopper he landed last fall out of City Island. Subscriber photo.

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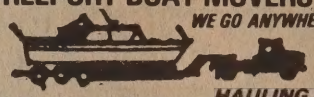

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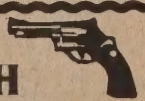

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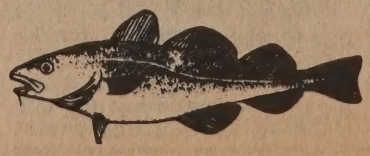
NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 6.)

tions, and other organizations. The Committee understood this section to make recreational fishing projects eligible for S-K funding, if they should meet the other criteria of the act." Initially, this effort paid off in a $70,000 grant to Aquabio, Inc. to develop a technology transfer to the U.S. of techniques on artificial reefs developed in Japan and Taiwan. It's just a start, but at least Congress has smoothed the path for the use of S-K funds in future sport fishery projects.



New Products

NEW DEEP WATER CHART RECORDER BY LOWRANCE

A straight-line sonar graph, which is powerful, compact and designed especially for deep water, leads the 1981 introduction list for Lowrance Electronics, the world's largest maker of sport fishing sonar equipment.

The unit is the LRG-1520, featuring four separate and distinct depth scales, unequaled resolution (the ability to separate fish from the bottom or other objects) and numerous other patented features.

Designed especially for deep-water fishing—from the Great Lakes of the U.S. and Canada to the saltwater oceans of the world—the unit will show lake and ocean bottom, structure, fish and other objects, at depths ranging from 0 to 460 feet.

It is complete with a unique surface clarity control, which eliminates unwanted clutter (plankton, algae and other micro-organisms) near the water's surface, and a super 900 watts of power output.

Coupled with a new narrow-cone transducer, also designed principally for deep-water use, the new unit "will establish Lowrance as a dominant factor in the saltwater and deep freshwater sonar field," according to Darrell Lowrance, president of the firm.

Some of the new unit's features include:

Scales of 0-60, 0-120, 0-240, and 220-460 feet, provide the versatility for the deepest of freshwater and saltwater angling, as well as shallow water application.

Lowrance's patented Grayline, which helps define bottom features, and separate fish from the bottom and other underwater objects.

Performs equally well at 65 miles an hour or trolling speed.

Boasts electronic motor speed control, and the unmatched ability (resolution) to separate fish from each other, when only six inches apart, or when near the bottom or other underwater objects.

A chart light is provided for easy nighttime readability.

The new unit is the third in a growing series of proven, time-honored straight-line graph from Lowrance, the folks who pioneered sport fishing sonar more than 23 years ago.

You can see the new unit at your favorite sporting goods or marine dealer. If you'd like more information, contact Lowrance Electronics, Inc., 12000 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128.

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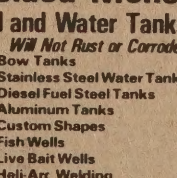

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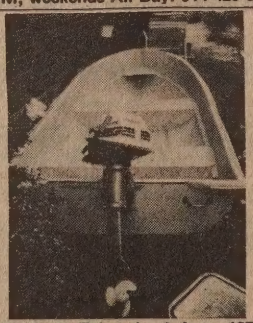

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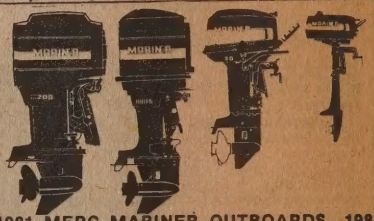

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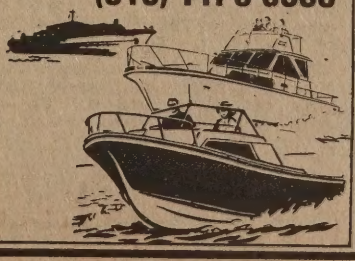

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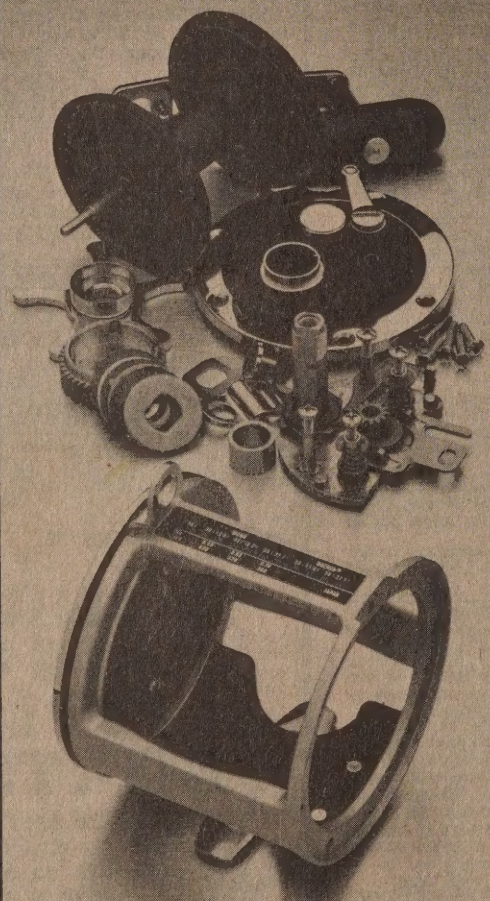

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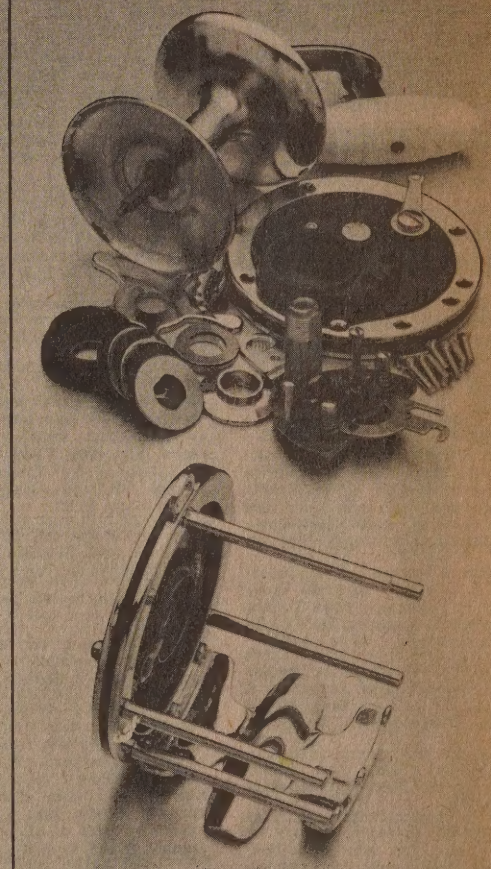

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